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ENHANCING AND MONITORING  
CIVIL DIALOGUE PROJECT

# DIALOGUE MAPPING RESEARCH 2021

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## PREFACE

As YADA Foundation, we have been carrying out the “Strengthening Civil Dialogue” project which we’ve initiated in December 2018 supported by the European Union with the aim of contributing to the democratic participation of CSOs in policy making processes and strengthening the dialogue between CSO-Public, CSO-Private Sector, CSO-Public-Private Sector as well as CSOs themselves by developing relations between these sectors.

We’ve designed 3 different researches that feed each other within the scope of the project. These research studies are; (1) Dialogue Mapping: Mapping the dialogue between civil society-public-private sector, (2) Dialogue Monitoring: Designing and developing tools for monitoring the dialogue among these sectors and (3) Media Monitoring: Monitoring and analyzing the forms and dimensions that CSOs use to influence the decisions of the public opinion and decision makers through media channels. We organize meetings and workshops in which we come together with civil society, public, and private sector representatives and opinion leaders in order to share the results of these researches and open them up to discussion. In this context we discussed the preliminary

results of the Dialogue Mapping study as well as the concept of dialogue in general within “Civil Dialogue Workshop” series by bringing the relevant stakeholders together.

Our aim with the Dialogue Mapping Research was reaching the quantitative and qualitative information needed within the scope of the project through different data collection tools and to compile and analyze this information. We can summarize the subgoals within the scope of Dialogue Mapping Research conducted by Adhoc Research and Consultancy as follows:

- △ Portraying the past experiences and future apprehensions of civil society organizations which operate in 8 thematic areas



(women, children, environment, refugee/ humanitarian aid, education, urban, civil society workers, think tanks and human rights),

- △ Revealing the dialogue gaps in this area,
- △ Identifying the opportunities put forth by those gaps towards dialogue,
- △ Ascertaining the discussion areas that provide a basis for dialogue in various thematic areas,
- △ Determining the current potentials of CSOs on dialogue,
- △ Revealing the good examples in the context of dialogue by examining national examples,
- △ Understanding the approaches to good practices in the eyes of different stakeholders,
- △ Mapping the current state of dialogue,
- △ Aggregating the types and levels of dialogue,
- △ Identifying the areas / levels and dimensions where dialogues are, are not or cannot be established.

We have ascertained the research results in the report through in-depth interviews with 102 civil society organizations and through the dialogue of civil society with CSOs, private sector, and public administration as well as civil society's own historical experiences and predictions for the future. We have grounded the research on the CSOs for whom interview requests were submitted within the scope of the study to focus on different sub-themes and subjects of the same working fields and to be a sample that is rich in information and that reflects the diversity of Turkey's civil society by paying attention to cover different world views and positions in Turkey. It can be said that the research sample which does not include any concerns on numerical representation for the civil society of Turkey, has a character that reflects the diversity of Turkey's civil society in a thematic context on world views, and that pioneering perceptions and approaches can be exposed by dialogue and collaboration. On this occasion, we would like to thank all CSOs that contributed to the research by providing opinions within the scope of this study.

**YADA Foundation**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We've addressed the research findings under three topics: **(1) Civil Society Dialogue, (2) Civil Society - Public Sector Dialogue and (3) Civil Society - Private Sector Dialogue.** With the data obtained from the CSO representatives who were interviewed for each type of dialogue, we've conducted a gap analysis to evaluate the difference between institutional approaches, trends, and the current situation by revealing the current state of collaborations and contacts at the cognitive level and the institutional approaches and trends among collaborations and contacts at the factual level.

As a result of our in-depth interviews with civil society organizations operating in 8 thematic areas, we've focused on the obstacles in front of dialogue and on the factors that enable dialogue, by analyzing how CSOs perceive other CSOs, how and according to what they aggregate other civil actors working in their field as well as their most commonly used classifications while describing the civil space. Likewise, we've examined the distance of civil society to other stakeholders by examining the relations and contacts of CSOs with public administration and private sector.

As we evaluate all categories in general while examining the dialogue among civil society, it is seen that CSOs which work on environment

and education define their own fields according to their activity / working method; CSOs which work on children, humanitarian aid and disability according to the rights-based-aid-based approaches; and CSOs which work on women, human rights and think tanks mostly according to the political position.

**These definitions provide information about how CSOs recognize which other CSOs or consider whom as actors in their field of activity.** In all categories, it is seen that three dichotomies CSOs use when describing Turkey's civil society are decisive. It is possible to define these dichotomies as **(1) rights-based-aid-based dichotomy, (2) conservatism-secularity dichotomy, and (3) bias-neutrality dichotomy (political**



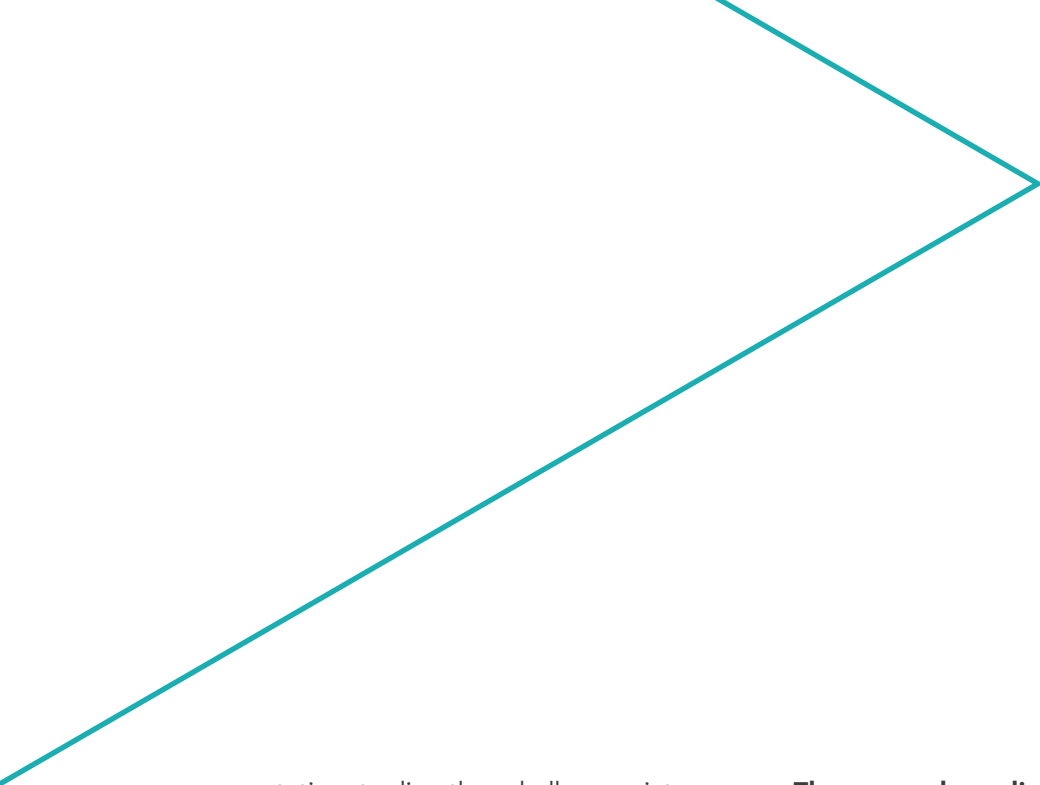
**dichotomy).** These dichotomies also create a perceptual hierarchy among CSOs. **It is observed that a CSO does not even consider another CSO as one depending on which side of these definitions it sees itself.**

**Rights-based and aid-based dichotomy causes CSOs to remain aloof from each other,** in rights-based organizations, ignoring and not dealing with organizations that do not work with the focus of rights is very common. Nonetheless, it is worth considering that the impassable walls built among the rights-based - aid-based dichotomy may create some obstacles in making the civil society dialogue ground functional.

**In the conservatism-secular dichotomy, it is seen that both conservative and secular**

**CSOs have little experience of interacting with each other. The limited experience of relationships between CSOs with different political positions reduces the potential for relationships and accentuates the distances between.** While conservative CSOs homogenise the secular organizations lesser, secular CSOs homogenise the conservative ones rather a lot and they are less aware of the differentiation within this area. This situation makes the issue-based networks established by secular organizations self-enclosed and difficult to pass.

**Considering the biasness-objectivity dichotomy, it is seen that CSOs define other CSOs with a motivation over their relations with the state, government, private sector or funders.** It is rather rare for CSO



representatives to directly verbally associate other CSOs in their field of activity with political parties. Rather, it is possible to say that evaluations are usually made on the basis of “being close to the government”, “working as a GONGO” or “being a partisan”. Although the biasness is often associated with being close to the government, a similar discourse appears to be associated with logrolling with private sector or funding organizations.

It is seen that among the CSOs that operate in the same field, the approach to working together is more positive than in previous years<sup>1</sup>. However, contacts made so far are low. In other words, **it is seen that the desire for dialogue among CSOs has increased, but it is still not put into action.** Desire has no practical requital yet, but they lean towards meeting other CSOs from different thematic areas at a discursive level. **On the other hand, CSOs approach the idea of getting together with other CSOs that work on a different theme from themselves rather warily.** Not being in the same field of activity is put forward as a legitimate reason for not getting together with certain CSOs.

**The areas where dialogue and contacts are established are limited to the fields of activity and working subjects of CSOs,** and these limits gets narrower depending on where they see themselves as an organization among these scales in the dichotomies mentioned above. **In-theme collaborations and contacts occur more than cross-theme collaborations.** There are scarcely any examples of one-off partnerships of CSOs that are not alike but that meet up by subject matter and then part away.

An extent of the thematic withdrawal among CSOs is also observed in the dialogue with public institutions. **The ability and imagination of CSO representatives to collaborate with public institutions which they think is not working in their field of activity is limited.** For example, women’s CSOs do not know how to collaborate with Immigration Authority or environmental CSOs do not have any ideas on how to work with AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency). On the other hand, most of the CSOs state that they are open to dialogue and collaboration with public institutions.

1 YADA, 2014. ‘Perceptions and Approaches Towards Civil Society Organizations in Turkey’ <https://yada.org.tr/yayinlar/sivil-toplum-kuruluslarina-yonelik-almi-ve-yaklasimlar/>





**While dialogue with political parties is generally responded positively by CSOs, collaboration is negated.** There are two main practices in dialogue with political parties. The first is to work directly towards political parties. For example, a women's organization that works to increase women's representation among politics is in direct contact with political parties and describes this communication as a coinciding activity with its founding purpose. The second practice is to stay in dialogue in order to put the organization's own practice on the political agenda. Advocacy organizations can engage in more dialogue with political parties in order to influence policy-making processes on specific issues.

When the dialogue of civil society with the private sector is examined, CSOs which state being open to collaboration with public institutions, do not think as similarly for companies. **The prominent concern in private sector collaborations is expressed as companies perceiving CSOs as PR or communication tools.** CSOs believe that when providing support, private sector attaches importance to the popularity of CSOs that comes from their recognition and visibility rather than their expertise.

In summary, Turkey civil society mostly uses a simple distinction between "what exists and what does not" and expresses this area by establishing dichotomies between these definitions. It can be said that there is a need to develop ways of getting together with CSOs that are stuck in thematic areas and dichotomies and that have not been contacted until that day in the civil society environment where the dialogue and collaboration between civil society is limited with being in-theme and being familiar with. Considering the CSOs' dialogue with public administration, it is seen that civil society has a practice of developing relations with institutions related to its theme, and on the other hand, it does not even have an idea of working with public institutions that are perceived as out-of-theme. With this aspect, it is possible to say that civil society public relations are traditional. Although civil society seems to be cautious when it comes to dialogue with politics and the private sector, CSOs do not hesitate to engage in dialogue with actors they think who will contribute to the issue. It is very important to create dialogue and contact environments through both institutional and non-institutional structures such as platforms and initiatives in order to develop dialogue within an ecosystem that brings public-CSO-private sector actors together.

# METHOD

As part of the “Dialogue Mapping Research”, in depth face-to-face interviews and surveys were conducted with 102 civil society organizations (CSOs) between September and November 2019.

First, lists including civil society organizations actively operating as of 2019 within different thematic areas such as environment, children, women, gender, disability, refugee and migration and human rights were prepared. The databases of the General Directorate of Civil Society Relations and the General Directorate of Foundations were used in the preparation of the CSO lists. CSOs to which interview requests were submitted were regarded to focus on different sub-branches and subjects of the same field of study as well as to cover various world views and positions in Turkey within the scope of the research, and the sample was regarded to be rich in information that reflects Turkey’s civil

society’s diversity. Since the research is based on a purposeful sampling structure, it does not have any concerns to be a numerical representation for Turkey’s civil society. In this respect, it can be said that the research sample has a character that reflects the diversity of Turkey civil society in a thematic or worldview context, and where pioneering perceptions and approaches in dialogue and collaboration can come forward.

Within the scope of the research, civil society organizations which operate in the following thematic areas took part. The number of CSOs interviewed for each category is included in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Access Details by CSO Categories

CSO CATEGORY	CSO NUMBERS				ACCESIBILITY
	Called	Rejected	No Response	Interviewed	
Human Rights	10	0	2	8	80%
Disability	8	0	2	6	75%
Human Rights	14	0	5	9	64%
Education	22	3	5	14	64%
Women / Gender	33	7	6	20	61%
Urban	24	2	9	13	54%
Children	20	3	7	10	50%
Environment	27	2	12	13	48%
Refugees/Humanitarian Aid	23	1	13	9	39%
<b>Total</b>	181	18	61	102	56%



Making appointments and interviews took place between September 1st – November 8th 2019. A total of 181 CSOs were contacted and 102 of them were interviewed by appointment. Rejection responses were received from 18 CSOs, mostly just because of their workload. No response was received from 61 CSOs on the other hand, although different individuals from the institutions were contacted via e-mail and phone.

Interview requests were conveyed to civil society organizations operating in the provinces of Istanbul, Ankara, Diyarbakır, Van, İzmir, Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin, Eskişehir, and Tunceli. Meetings were only completed with Istanbul, Ankara and Diyarbakır based CSOs by receiving positive feedback.

Question directives which were designed to collect both qualitative and quantitative data were used in the interviews. Although the question directives contain exactly the same questions, the conceptualization has been remade for each thematic area. Thus, 8 different types of questions were used in the fieldwork by making corrections in the wording that contain the same questions in total. Among the questions, there were also questions including the names of other CSOs operating in the thematic area.

The subjects that were addressed in the question directives were as follows:

- △ Information about the establishment and representatives
- △ First CSOs that come to mind
- △ Contacts and relations with other civil society organizations
- △ Consultation and communication processes
- △ Relations with public administration, political parties, and local governments
- △ Contacts and collaborations with the private sector
- △ Future expectations and approaches

The interviews took approximately 1-2 hours. The interviews were made with managers, experts, and employees authorized to speak on the behalf of the organization. Since some CSOs asked to participate in the interviews with 2 or 3 representatives, the interviews were made with multiple participations.

# FINDINGS

The research findings were discussed under three topics: (1) Civil Society Dialogue, (2) Civil Society - Public Sector Dialogue and (3) Civil Society - Private Sector Dialogue. Under the Civil Society - Public Sector Dialogue topic, the collaboration and dialogue environment with local governments and political parties was also examined.

With the data obtained from the CSO representatives for each type of dialogue;

(1) A gap analysis was conducted to evaluate the difference between institutional approaches, trends, and the current situation by revealing the current state of collaborations and contacts at the cognitive level

(2) And the institutional approaches and trends among collaborations and contacts at the factual level







**1**

**CIVIL  
SOCIETY  
DIALOGUE**

# CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

In this section, it is aimed to portray the current situation of dialogue among civil society organizations in Turkey and the nature of this dialogue. In this context:

- How CSOs define the civil and thematic areas they operate in,
- Mapping of CSO-CSO relations by focusing on appreciation and contact,
- Types of dialogue and collaborations established by CSOs with other CSOs and the criteria considered among the collaborations,
- Views of CSOs on funding sources and fund preferences were discussed.

## 1.1. CSOS' DESCRIPTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In the field study, it has been analyzed how CSOs perceive other CSOs, how and according to what they aggregate other civil actors working in their field as well as their most commonly used classifications while describing the civil space. The following sub-questions were focused on in this section:

- Where has the contrasts begun to be formed?
- What are the points that CSOs think are not right in the description?
- How do they define the other and how do they differentiate themselves (the gaps they fill, their perception of sense of individuality)?
- Which CSOs come to mind first among civil society?

- What CSOs do CSOs count first among the ones that are operating in their field of work?

For this purpose, CSO representatives were asked to categorize or aggregate other civil society organizations operating in their field. CSO categories derived from open ended responses were grouped and listed in Table 2 according to their frequency of repetition.

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## CSOs mostly categorize each other according to their activity method, study subject and approach.

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The most repetitive category used by CSO representatives when grouping CSOs working in their field was **"rights-based work"**. While CSOs are aggregated in all thematic areas, attention is often drawn to the duality of rights-based work or non-rights-based work. Those who are positioned at the opposite of rights-based CSOs are "aid-based" organizations. This prominent contrast will be discussed further in the report.

Another categorization that CSOs most frequently use when describing other CSOs operating in their field is the subjects specific to the thematic area they work in and the groups targeted by the studies. For example, while CSOs working in the field of environment,





group other CSOs as those who “work on plastic”, “work on climate”, “work on food”, CSOs working in the field of gender group the others as those who “work on violence”, “LGBTI + movement”, “work on masculinity” or those who “work on political or economic participation”. Similarly, defining the other CSOs according to the target group such as those who “work with teachers”, “work with people with cerebral palsy” or “work with Syrian asylum seekers / refugees”. In addition, work that determines the strategies and activities of CSOs such as advocacy, lobbying, campaigning, activism, awareness-raising,

public awareness, research, and scientific studies as well as protection activities such as child welfare or nature protection come to the forefront in category naming.

Another classification is made according to CSOs’ financial resources, funding status, whether they receive state / government support or their contact with the private sector. In this context, groupings such as “recipients of funds”, “employees without funding”, “those who are independent of financial resources”, “GONGOs”, “those who focus on private sector” were frequently encountered in the

**Table 2.** CSO Categorization of CSO Representatives

	Frequency of Repetition
Rights-based working	48
Subject based working (plastic pollution, prostitution, climate change, masculinity, health, sheltering, food, memory, location, violence etc.)	47
Those who work with the focus of the target group (teachers, youth, students, immigrants, refugees, Syrians, child workers, Romanis, etc.)	33
Those who work with the focus of Aid	20
Those who work with the focus of Education	17
Those who work with the focus of Advocacy	14
Those who work with the focus of Socialization	9
Those who work with the focus of Research	8
Those with public support / GONGOs	8
Those who work with the aim of lobbying, policy making and influencing	8
Project based	8
Activists	7
Those who work on protection activities	7
Those who work on economics, labor, entrepreneurship	6
Service supplier	6
Those who work with the focus of participation	6

	Frequency of Repetition
Those who work in the field	6
Those who work internationally	6
Expert-based	6
Feminist organizations	5
Those who work nationally	5
Scholarship grantors	4
Those who work with the focus of democratization	4
Those who work with the focus of empowering	4
Islamic organizations	4
Those who work with the focus of development	4
Those who work locally / regionally	4
Those who work on justice or Law	3
Those who work with the focus of awareness	3
Those who are engaged in “sham” activities	3
Those who work with the focus of capacity building	3
Neighborhood associations	3
Those who work with the focus of PR	3
Those who work with the focus of sports	3
Other	59

interviews. With reference to private sector relations, definitions such as “those who do Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work” and “those who focus on Public Relations (PR)” are also encountered. In this context, there are also categories such as those who work project-oriented, volunteer-based or such as those who work on the field or those who do desk work.

The responses of the representatives for the categorizations of CSOs show that CSOs are mostly defined according to the activity, subject of study, approach, activity scale, political position, and legal status, respectively. In the analysis:

- △ Definitions pointing to rights-based, aid-based status are grouped **according to approach**,
- △ Definitions based on activities such as advocacy, communication, campaign, research, monitoring, granting scholarships, raising awareness, creating public opinion are grouped **according to activity / method**,
- △ Definitions pointing to the subheadings of certain themes such as climate, plastics, political participation, sanitation / access to clean water, early childhood education, freedom of belief, sustainable transportation are grouped **according to the subject of study**,
- △ Groupings based on internationality, working at national level, being local or regional, and groupings regarding capacity size are grouped **according to the scale**,
- △ Groupings made according to political party preference, religion, belief, identity, ideology, their relationship with the power and according to theme are grouped **according to political position**,
- △ Classifications based on organizations that do not have a legal status such as platforms, initiatives, lodges, communities, as well as definitions according to CSO’s legal status such as professional associations, unions, federations, authorized organizations, foundations, associations are grouped **according to status**.

Representatives of CSOs describe other CSOs that are active in their field of work mostly according to the activity / method (27%), study subject (25%) and approach (22%). Subsequently,

CSOs are categorized according to their political position (8%), scale of activity (6%) and official status (5%). “Those who think categorization should not be made”, “those who give reference to non-CSO organizations”, “those who classify according to performance and power of influence” and a small number of individual responses were coded as “Other”.

**Table 3.** Categorization of Civil Society Organizations by CSOs According to Thematic Area

	Total
According to activity/method	26,8%
According to study subject	25,2%
According to approach	22,0%
According to political position	7,9%
According to activity scale	6,3%
According to its official status	4,7%
Other	7,1%

**Diagram 1.** Area Classification of Environmental CSOs



Environmental organizations group CSOs more by their scale of activity compared to other thematic areas



Environmental CSOs that were interviewed within the scope of the research, prefer to group civil organizations working in their field more by their activity / method, activity scale and status. Environmental organizations group CSOs more by their scale of activity compared to other thematic areas. Environmental CSOs group CSOs as local communities and organizations that carry the international agenda to Turkey and that act as a spokesperson for global environmental issues, who work / struggle in the field of ecology and food, operate at the national level, and who in this context contact both local and international organizations. In the classification according to the status, there are authorized organizations, sector foundations, cooperatives, and communities. In the activities and methods used, nature conservation studies, forestation, campaigns, awareness raising, scientific research, lobbying, advocacy, policy influencing, and activism stand out. The subjects that CSOs that work in the field of environment focus on are grouped as climate, plastics, food, green policy, green economy, ecology, energy, and sustainable development. It is observed that environmental organizations do not group CSOs working in this field according to their political positions, compared to organizations that work in the field of women and human rights. However, even in a small number, groupings over the success of influencing the decisions about the environment are also encountered.

Diagram 2. Area Classification of Children's CSOs



## The most common categorization among children's CSOs is the distinction between right-based /aid-based approach

The most common categorization among children's CSOs is the distinction between right-based /aid-based approach. In addition, those working in this field define children's CSOs according to their activity and subject of study.

The subject of study on the other hand is defined according to the target audience as adults, parents / children directly or as thematic issues that concern children. The prominent fields of study in classifying the field of children in civil society are health, children with cancer, education, child participation, children's rights, violations of children's rights, sports, state protection, adoption, foster family, child labor, child health, physically disabled children, other children with mental incompetence, neglect and abuse, refugee and unaccompanied children, children living on the street, and those with functional impairment.

Undoubtedly, children's CSOs are not limited to these areas of work. For example, there are other areas of work such as children in the

justice system, early marriages, early childhood education and religious education. Yet, these areas are mostly expressed by CSOs that work on human rights, education, or gender themes, and sometimes focusing on children. This situation can be interpreted as an indication that CSOs define their field of activity only around issues related to their work.

**Diagram 3.** Area Classification of Education CSOs



## Description by activity and subject of study is common in CSOs working in the field of education

Description by activity and subject of study is common in CSOs working in the field of education. Education CSOs are grouped according to their activities as those who provide scholarships and aid, those who engage in advocacy, empowerment, strategy development / policy making. According to the target audience, they are categorized as those who work with teachers, children, volunteers, parents, university students, pre-university youth, preschool children, volunteers and with disadvantaged groups (refugees, Romanis, children with disabilities, children with autism).

Institutional capacity, such as small-scale, medium, and large-scale organizations, is one of the prominent factors in describing education CSOs. Holding foundations, graduate foundations and associations, teacher unions and parent organizations are also actors seen among the fields of education CSOs. In the classifications, it is observed that education CSOs do not mention CSOs working on religious education and education in mother tongue.

**Diagram 4.** Area Classification of Disability CSOs



## The predominant descriptions among disability CSOs are made over “rights-based” and “aid-based”

The predominant descriptions among disability CSOs are made over “rights-based” and “aid-based”. Descriptions such as “pretending” and “abusing” CSOs among aid activities are included in this categorization, and those in this category are widely criticized. The field of study of CSOs operating in the field of disability is mostly described according to the type of disability (cerebral palsy, down syndrome, autism, physical disabilities, etc.). It is observed that CSOs that carry out projects by receiving funds from funders may be considered as a separate category.



**Diagram 5.** Area of Classification of Women's / Gender CSOs



## CSOs working in the field of women / gender are the most prominent category according to political position

CSOs working on women / gender prefer to group organizations operating in their fields according to the thematic study subject. In the subjects of study, themes such as violence, political participation, economy, entrepreneurship, justice and legal processes and education come to the forefront. In addition, CSOs in this field describe others over activities such as advocacy, monitoring work or providing local support. Rights-based organizations are also considered as a separate category in this thematic area.

CSOs working in the field of women / gender are the most prominent category at classification according to the political position. Political position is described mostly by the adopted ideology and by being close to the government. In this description, it is observed that CSOs which stand close to the current government and to its political view are frequently described as GONGOs or as state-sponsored.

**Diagram 6.** Area Classification of Civil Society / Think Tanks



## Civil Society / Think Tanks is another thematic area where the political position comes to the forefront after women's CSOs among CSO classification.

Civil Society / Think Tanks is another thematic area where the political position comes to the forefront after women's CSOs among CSO classification. It is observed that CSOs that produce information in both the areas of human rights and civil society resort to classifications based on "closeness to power" and "ideology / values" when describing their areas. In this context, CSO representatives refer to dual categories such as "those who are or aren't supporters", "state-sponsored", "subsidiary organization" and "those who are or aren't fund receivers". CSOs operating in this area are also defined through activities such as scientific study, research, monitoring, rights-based advocacy activities.

Groupings according to the study subjects are diversified into themes such as refugees,

women, children, environment as well as citizenship, faith-based communities, minorities, and grassroots movements. CSOs working with rights-based or solidarity procedures are also referred to as CSOs working on democratization. The official status of organizations operating in the area is also considered by CSOs that work on civil society / think tanks. In this category, while describing the civilian area in Turkey, units affiliated to universities, associations and federations are also referred to. The scale of activity of CSOs, especially whether they operate nationally or internationally is also included in this categorization.

**Diagram 7.** Area Classification of Urban CSOs

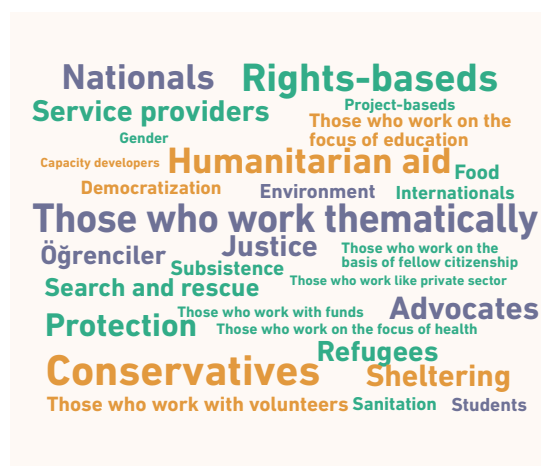


## The classification is mostly done according to the activity among the CSOs that working on urban areas

The classification is mostly done according to the activity among the CSOs that working on urban areas. CSOs working in the urban area are grouped as scholarship providers, those who are engaged in cultural and artistic activities, those who provide technical expertise, who organize closed events, lobby, who are engaged in corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects and who work on urban memory. CSOs who work on the urban area are described

according to the field of studies such as sports, transportation, culture-arts, ecology, food, public sphere, sustainability, and political positions such as being opposed or being liberal. Unlike other thematic areas, organizations with various statuses such as neighborhood organizations, student societies and professional associations are also among the actors of this area among the CSOs working in the urban area.

**Diagram 8.** Area Classification of Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSOs



## In the categorization of CSOs working in the field of refugees, the distinction between Syrian workers and non-Syrian workers draws the attention

It is seen that the classification by activity is common among CSOs working in the field of refugees and humanitarian aid. Differentiating from the classification of CSOs in other thematic areas, service-based CSOs working on humanitarian diplomacy are also included in the right-based - aid-based distinction. Humanitarian aid work issues are described over different fields of activity such as food, sanitation, healthcare, shelter, protection, search, and rescue. Aid-based CSOs, on the other hand, are mostly described in terms of political position,



religion, and ethnic identity. The target groups to which aid activities are directed are also used to define the political positions of CSOs: e.g., aid activities only for Muslims or Turkic republics. In the categorization of CSOs working in the field of refugees, the distinction between Syrian workers and non-Syrian workers draws the attention. In the 10 years that have passed since April 2011 when Syrian refugees first entered Turkey it seems that the Syrian crisis has mostly defined this area.

*“Those who work rights-based are those who work with religiously motivated people as well as those who work or who do not work project-based but have this goal and theme. I don’t know how to say it, maybe the thematic ones: Syrian workers, non-Syrian workers.”*  
A Refugee CSO

Diagram 9. Area Classification of Human Rights CSOs



CSOs working in the field of Human Rights mostly define the actors in their area according to the political position.

CSOs working in the field of Human Rights mostly define the actors in their area according to the political position. CSO classification in this field includes different descriptions such as “state sponsored”, “being close to Kurdish movement”, “proximity to leftist / socialist view”, “conservative CSOs” and “being politically inconsistent.” Rights-based working methods such as those who make documentation and monitoring work, those who conduct scientific studies, those who work project-based, campaigners and fundraisers are also frequently included in the descriptions. Rights organizations are defined as organizations and self-organizations working in different fields such as women, refugees, children, LGBTI +, Alevi and environment, with reference to their target audience or the audience they serve as spokespersons.

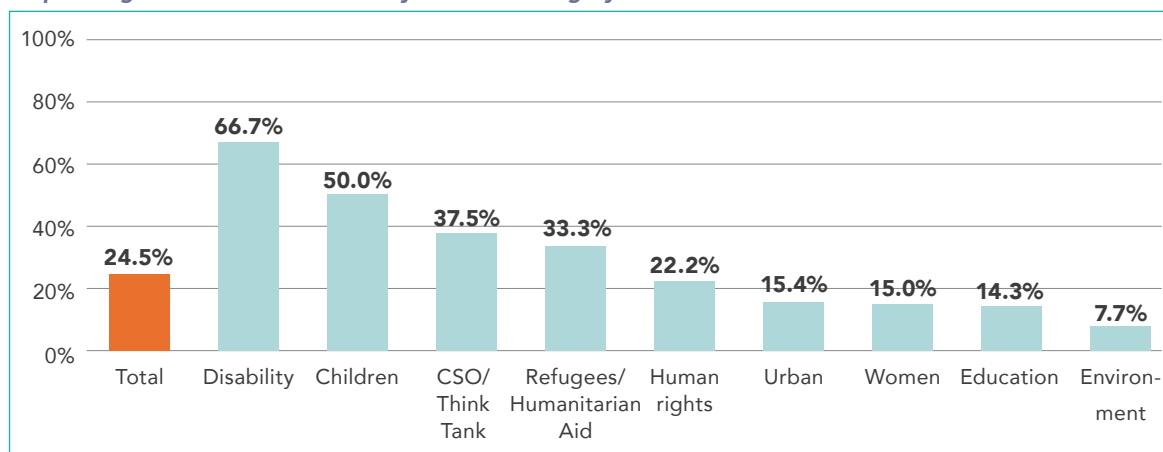
If we review all categories in general, it is seen that environment and education CSOs describe their areas according to activity / working method, child-based, humanitarian aid and disability CSOs according to having rights-based or aid-based approaches, and women, human rights CSOs and think tanks according to political positions. These descriptions give us information about which CSOs recognize other CSOs from their area of activity and consider them as actors in that area.

### 1.1.1. Dichotomies

It is seen that the three dichotomies CSOs use when describing Turkey civil society are decisive. CSOs resort to some dichotomies while grouping their areas of activity, and this template is seen among all thematic areas. It is possible to describe these as (1) rights-based - aid-based dichotomy, (2) conservatism - secularity dichotomy, and (3) political dichotomy that point to biasness, being commanded and neutrality.

These dichotomies also create a perceptual hierarchy among CSOs. It is observed that a

**Graph 1. Rights-Based Classification by Thematic Category**



CSO does not even describe a CSO as one when one does not resemble itself in this respect, depending on which side of these definitions it sees itself.

### a) Rights-based – Aid-based Dichotomy

## Rights-based and aid-based dichotomy make CSOs stand aloof from each other

As presented in the previous section, it is possible to say that the most common emphasis in defining actors in Turkey civil society is the “rights based” and “aid based” distinction. The frequency with which CSO representatives directly define actors working in their own fields according to “rights-based” work varies according to thematic areas. Approximately 1 in 4 of the interviewed CSOs make a description in this direction.

Disability and children’s CSOs are the ones that use the rights-based/aid-based aggregation the most. In CSOs working in the area of children, the discourse of rights is much more dominant than the discourse on themes such as women and education. It is seen that organizations working in the area of

civil society frequently resort to this kind of categorization.

Disability CSOs describe the actors operating in this area as those who do or do not work rights-based, often by establishing a clear hierarchy between them. Two of every three disability CSOs describe their area through rights studies. In this context, all kinds of advocacy activities that aim to influence policies and laws are considered extremely valuable and are defined as an area that needs improvement. Rights-based organizations have a very weak trust in CSOs that work aid-based in the area of disability and their attitudes towards CSOs in this area are distant.



**“The number of rights-based CSOs are low, and then there are aid-based ones, which I think 80% - 90% of the disability area is built on aid-baseds. This limits our ability to progress in many areas, so the number of rights-based CSOs need to increase rapidly, it really needs to be taken out of the aid axis.”** Disability CSO





*"I mean... Our understanding of a rights-based CSO is not very powerful. There are only a few organizations in Turkey that carry out a rights-based struggle and carry out effective advocacy and monitoring activities. I can divide it into three: First ones are the rights-based ones. There are a small number of organizations that struggle on the basis of rights. Second, there are organizations that struggle based on aid. These are quite a lot. They mostly do something for the needy, try to gather and distribute resources. Unfortunately, there is also a third category of organization that tries to benefit from this area and try to gain unearned income out of it. They present themselves as rights-based or aid-based organizations. In fact, what they do is earning money by abusing the compassion that is aroused by the disabilities in the public. They do nothing else, there is no service. (...) We are a rights-based organization. Those who are the most distant from us are the abusive, that is the groups that seek for unearned income."*

Disability CSO

CSOs working in the area of children and gender use the rights or aid-based approaches as a definition that intersects with the work focus and method of CSOs.




*"We can make more than one categorization: The first is activists. The second is those who produce information. Apart from that, the groups working with themes are those working on child labor, humanitarian aid, education, and similar activities. It can be divided into various categories as rights-based and aid-based working groups. (...) We see ourselves as more of a rights advocacy organization that produces research and development and models."*

Children's CSO



*"What categories are there in the area of children, let me think ... Those who work in the field of education, those who do advocacy activities, those who carry out rights-based activities, those who work on aid. (A: So how would you sort these categories as closest to furthest to you?) Rights-based, education, advocacy, aid-based."*


Children's CSO



***“Basically, I can classify as follows. There are women’s associations based on fellow-citizenship associations. This would be a clearer classification. These are fellow-citizenship-based associations located in various provinces and districts, which enable women to participate in social life. There are rights-based associations. Rights-based associations may be divided as violence and political rights. I do not know if you can include entrepreneurship, that is, the economic dimension of women, into this. There are also other social associations, that is, various art associations. There are associations that exist in more cultural, social and artistic areas. These can be considered to be on a rights basis, but we can separate them as a field of study. There are professional organizations, but they are either within professional groups or they can be separate as well. (...) We can separate economy and entrepreneurship. Because there are serious women entrepreneurs. Businesswomen from Adana, businesswomen from Ankara... So that could be a category too. It may be a more economic oriented structure rather than being rights-based.”***

Gender/Women’s CSO

The distinction between working or not working rights-based is evident in CSOs working in the area of refugees. Although CSOs working in the area of humanitarian aid classify this area based on the focus of aid activities, issues such as rights-based work and humanitarian diplomacy differ from being aid-based.



***“So, we can group it according to its goal. I mean. There are service providers, I put service providers in one place. There are also those working on capacity building, like us. There are also those who are rights-based, that is, creating awareness and public opinion, and creating change in politics.***

***(A: Well, how would you sort these categories from the closest to the farthest?) Capacity building is the closest, then humanitarian aid, then rights-based work at politics level, rights-based (...) Hmm ... Or we can put rights-based to the first place ... Or we can put it in the middle and put humanitarian aid, that is, service-based, to the last place. Because, in fact, there are no situations in which we directly touch the refugee, I mean, like they coming to this center or like we go and provide one-on-one service to the refugee.”***

Refugees/Humanitarian Aid CSO





*“There are rights-based groups that advocate for rights. There are groups like us that focus more on humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid comes first. (...) Then comes human rights and human diplomacy. We can already consider them together.”*

Refugees/Humanitarian Aid CSO

It is possible to say that organizations working in the field of **third generation rights** in civil society such as environmental, urban rights as well as the rights to benefit from the common assets of humanity have gained ground especially in the themes of urban and environment. For example, while CSO representatives working in the urban area define this area of work, they again put rights-based work to the fore and they address to it.



*“As I said, there are those who work on the urban area, those who work on the rural area, those who work on memory, and then there are those who work more rights-based and thematic. Or there are associations that do not work based on rights. I don’t consider them much. Some solidarity associations, that association, this association... These are associations that are at the other end of the scale, far beyond our area of work.”*

Urban CSO



*“In fact, we can start with rights-based groups. In other words, in our field of activity, most of the organizations operating in the urban area carry out rights-based activities. There are also those who call it advocacy, but in terms of urbanism, I can say that there is such a group. There are also participation-oriented works, similar to what we do. Besides, let me say in quotation marks, there are only those who do the PR of this work. In other words, there are those who approach the issue as holding events, holding seminars, conferences. We think that the most valuable is the second one. We think there should be a participatory approach. I am not saying that the work done by other groups is bad, but we think it is not towards the needs in the field.”*

Urban CSO

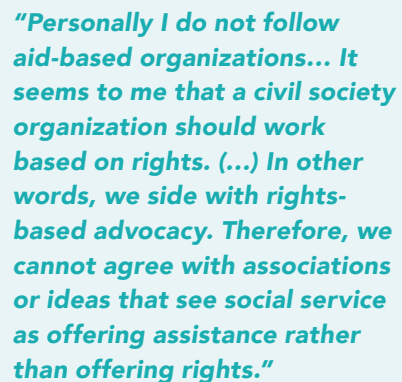
Rights discourse is also encountered among the CSOs working in the area of environment, though less than other areas of activity. Establishing a livable world and the right to environment are among the prominent issues in the area of environment recently. When we compare it with the results of the previous research, we can see this clearly. For example, such an emphasis was not found in the Environment-Oriented Civil society Organizations Profile Research (2013) conducted by YADA in the previous years. Representatives of organizations that produce information among the area of civil society also foresee that environmental and rights issues will intersect more with time.



***“There is this thing about human rights organizations, the name human rights is used, but we use the description of rights organizations. Rights organizations generally include organizations that do advocacy work and that are specialized in a certain field. Areas such as women, children, fundamental rights, freedom of expression and fair trial. And there seems to be increasing contact with the environmental movement. Environmental rights are environmental activists’ rights at the same time.”***

CSO/Think Tank

This may lead to miss the possibility of meeting with organizations who carry out activities that undertake socialization, support or assistance functions, or the possibilities of establishing collaboration or sharing through information, observations and experiences about the area and the target audience.



***“Personally I do not follow aid-based organizations... It seems to me that a civil society organization should work based on rights. (...) In other words, we side with rights-based advocacy. Therefore, we cannot agree with associations or ideas that see social service as offering assistance rather than offering rights.”***


Human rights CSO

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## Rights-based and aid-based distinction is one of the obstacles to civil society dialogue

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It can be said that working with a rights-based approach is adopted among CSOs in Turkey and that the actors of different thematic areas are largely defined by rights-based organizations. The importance of rights-based work in civil society in establishing democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms cannot be denied. However, it is worth considering that the impassable walls that were built in the rights-based-aid-based dichotomy may create some obstacles in making the civil society dialogue ground functional. For example, it is quite common to ignore and not address the organizations that do not work on rights-based organizations.



***“In fact, CSOs doing aid-based work seem to stymie the rights-based ones. There is an attempt to create a perception management about rights there, so I don’t like CSOs who work aid-based in the area of disability.”***

Urban CSO



Another obstacle aroused by dichotomies in front of civil dialogue is the anxiety that CSOs experience when doing non-rights-based activities with different functions.



***"(...)But we are still in a quandary as an association. Are we service-based or rights-based? Like should we organize a picnic or not? But one of the implications of the picnic was that the children there bond with the organizations that carry out such activities and now they somehow know about our association right now. This was our achievement."***

Children CSO

There are different areas in civil society on fundamental freedoms and rights such as the right of sanctuary, freedom of belief, prisoner rights in prisons, rights related to sexual and reproductive health, right to environment, urban rights, animal rights, and the rights of cyclists. By limiting the focus of CSOs to the rights in their area of activity, it causes them to refrain from issues that do not touch those subjects, thus causing a state of introversion. Working with a focus on thematic rights and CSOs focusing on rights limited to their own areas of activity cause a missed opportunity on taking a holistic approach to the issue of fundamental human rights and freedoms. Another risk area in this regard is the establishment of a hierarchy between rights. Civil society organizations tend to see the importance of their focus above the rights defenses in other areas.



***"As I said about human rights, especially about victimization, ideological perspective is something that affects those organizations to take action. In other words, if you have an ideological perspective and it is reflected in your organization, you do not see some victimization as violations of rights and therefore ideological issues prevent collaboration from time to time. There are also the red lines. As a result, when an organization emerges, it usually begins with thinking that it will defend rights regardless of who, but it does not happen. They can say that they side with the victim no matter who, but in practice it may not be so."***

Human Rights CSO

## **b) Conservatism-Secularity Dichotomy**

**Organizations which do not describe themselves with conservative and Islamic values do not recognize organizations that describe themselves as conservative in the field of civil society.**

Stratifications among lifestyles and practices over conservative and secular values have been frequently used in understanding and describing both social dynamics and the political field in Turkey since the 90s. One of the striking points in the classifications of CSOs within the scope of the research is that variables such as political party preference, religion, belief,

identity, ideology which are discussed in social polarization studies, are less preferred by CSOs in aggregating organizations that work in their areas. Only 6 of the 102 CSOs interviewed have stated that a grouping can be made based on determinants such as religion, political approach, and identity. Those who think that Islamic organizations can be considered as a separate category while describing civil society in Turkey, are again those who define their own organizations with Islamic values. Organizations that do not define their own institutions with Islamic values and conservatism do not categorize civil society in terms of conservatism or secularism. However, this is more about denying the legitimacy of the category they oppose, rather than the absence of such a dichotomy. Organizations which do not describe themselves with conservative and Islamic values do not recognize organizations that describe themselves as conservative in the field of civil society and therefore do not define their own areas within the framework of this dichotomy.

***“Yeah ... Students, and then there are also associations established in the sense of organization. In other words, those who work for students or related to politics, again very intertwined... This is not just about conservative neighborhoods. Other places than community centers are normally civil society as well. There is civil society power. It is either weakening or increasing... It may change according to the period, according to the conjuncture. But in the current situation, these also have power. These are associations after all. Although they have direct links with parties and politics, they are also a force.”***

Humanitarian Aid/Refugee CSO

The religionism / conservatism - secularity dichotomy approach used in describing the field of civil society is a variable that vertically intersects the grouping over action and activities.

***“What I generalize as democratization are the right-based ones, solidarists ... Some of the solidarists have nothing to do with democracy, but some do. Because when we say civil society organization in Turkey, we know that most of them are not civil society organizations in the sense we know. Building a mosque, or over fellow citizenship... The rate of the ones working rights-based or working on democratization is already very low. Therefore, we can probably divide them into groups as more conservative and more secular ones.”***

Civil Society Organization/Think Tank





***“Grouping is usually done ideologically in Turkey. Right-left CSOs are grouped as Islamic, conservative, or secular CSOs. I wouldn’t group it so. I would group them according to their activities. For example, we could group them by considering the people that are the target audience of education. This would be an important ground. We could make a grouping that takes target groups such as CSOs that provide education for women, CSOs that provide education for children or the CSOs that provide education for disadvantaged people into account. Or we could group them according to education types. Let’s say that we could group them as CSOs that conduct training with a little more widespread participation, training for slightly more focused groups, or as CSOs that conduct trainings that require a little more expertise. I think it is more reasonable to group them according to the nature of the activity.”***

Education CSO

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## Secular CSOs homogenize conservative CSOs and are less aware of the differentiation among this area

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As to be detailed in the next section, when we examine the dialogue maps, it is seen that when the disliked CSOs are listed, different CSOs that are thought to represent a

conservative world view are considered in the same category. However, CSO representatives give less reference to organizations they see distant to themselves while counting other actors operating in their field of work. Particularly, the representatives of the secular organizations that were interviewed do not spontaneously refer to the working areas of the CSOs they consider distant, but when asked about the disliked CSOs in their field, they do not mention that CSOs who are also active in this field. Therefore, it is seen that especially secular CSOs do not make such a distinction when grouping actors in their field of study. In other words, CSOs tend not to recognize the CSOs whom they find distant as actors working in their field of activity.

On the other hand, CSOs which describe themselves on the Islamic values bases characterize the organizations which they consider as the “secular wing” with more categories by making ideological distinctions like “socialist”, “Kurdish”, “republican”. But secular organizations are more generalizing when describing conservative institutions. Conservative organizations are described as “Islamist,” “supporter,” and “government-driven,” but these concepts are seen equal. However, it is quite difficult to say that both secular and conservative sections of Turkey are homogeneous groups. As it is not possible to generalize individuals or organizations with secular or conservative sensitivities, not all organizations in this segment sharing the same ideology and view can be observed from the way CSOs describe their and other organizations. The existence of organizations and formations that are conservative but opposed to public policies indicates that there are no homogeneous categories established with the description of conservative civil society organizations. However, secular organizations tend to define this area as a homogeneous category.

In summary, while conservative CSOs homogenize secular organizations less, seculars homogenize conservative CSOs pretty lot and are less aware of the differentiation among this area. This situation renders the issue-oriented networks established by secular organizations closed and difficult to pass.

### c) Biasness – Objectivity Dichotomy

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## CSOs define the other CSOs' relations with the state, government, private sector or funding sources with being controlled.

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Another prominent dichotomy in the classification of civilian areas and in the dynamics of liking-not liking other CSOs during the negotiations was about partisanship. Although this partisanship situation is mostly described in terms of proximity to the government, benefiting from the private sector and funding sources counts as being controlled.

While describing the actors in their area of activity, CSO representatives directly associating other CSOs with political parties is quite low at the level of discourse. Rather, there is an evaluation based on “being close to the government”, “working like a GONGO”, “being a supporter”. CSOs that are most matched with this description is those working in the area of women. To briefly explain the concept, GONGO is a government-organized civil society organization.<sup>2</sup> In Turkish sources,

it is described as “Government-Controlled or State Supported Civil Society Organization”. In the interviews, it is observed that CSO representatives use GONGO in a negative way with this definition.

**“A: So when you think about civil society in general, are there any groups that you are critical of?”**

**G: Beyond the subject, this issue has started to seem rather unpleasing to me recently. There are some civil society organizations established by the government. There are many of them among women’s organizations. E.g organizations that oppose Istanbul convention, divorced fathers and so on. Family protection institutions have increased a lot recently. I can say that I personally do not like them. It is obvious that they are not advocating for human rights. What they do is unclear. These are the organizations we call GONGO.”**

Human Rights CSO

2 Reza Hasmath, Timothy Hildebrandt & Jennifer Y. J. Hsu (2019) Conceptualizing government-organized non-governmental organizations, *Journal of Civil Society*, 15:3, 267-284, DOI: 10.1080/17448689.2019.1632549





***"A: So, when you think about civil society in general, are there any civil society organizations that you find distant from yourself?"***

***G: Of course there are. The organizations I have just mentioned. These are very recent and new typologies. These are called GONGOs. Someone also called them a funny name in the meeting the other day, but I do not remember it. He said something like a civil society government organization... After all, the characteristic of civil society organizations is that they keep their distances from the government. This does not mean that there will be no collaboration or contact, but the issues to be criticized it is a matter of criticism for us, for example the shutting down of that four thousand associations. Shutting down the rights organizations is a matter of criticism for us. Creating difficulties during the establishment of associations is a problem for us. So we pay attention. Fair, equitable and transparent use of public funds is a concern to us. We are skeptical of associations that do not use them this way."***

CSO – Think Tank

One aspect of partisanship stated by CSOs is engagement with the private sector. In particular, environmental CSOs criticize this private sector partisanship on environment by calling them *greenwashing* CSOs for the private sector bias on the environment.



***"They try to be greener, which we call it Greenwashing, but ultimately they seem to be working in our area, we keep a little distant from them."***


Environment CSO



***"I don't like greenwashers. There are also foundations among them. But I don't want to name them. I don't like those who work with non-ecological companies and try to make them look ecological."***


Environment CSO

Although partisanship is often associated with being close to the government, a similar discourse appears to be associated with affinity with the private sector and funding agencies. CSOs define the relations of other CSOs with the state, government, private sector, or funding sources with being controlled. CSOs define a category called "project fetishism" and the relationship they establish with the funders is defined as partisanship in this category.




***“And recently, perhaps since the 90’s, when the CSO field started to become a sector, project fetishism has stood out. We also see that some associations and organizations have been established to receive funds and turned that funds into income. They reveal themselves. This is reflected to their work and to the formation itself. This is one of my favorite qualities of civil society. Organizations that adopt very basic principles in different fields and work in different fields already know each other. They work together. What I just mentioned remains above these. I myself would not prefer to do business with them or have my organization do business with them.”***

Women’s CSO



***“Just like I said, a fund comes, usually a political fund is given to a group and there are associations that emerge suddenly with that fund. Anyway, those associations shut down when that fund runs out, so I want to stay away from them. We don’t have much to do with them, so we don’t work with them.”***

Education CSO



***“G: In this sense, there are dozens or even hundreds of organizations working on a project basis. In this sense, such a distinction... that’s why I say it is the only one (for his own CSO). Apart from that, CSOs and associations have certain responsibilities and obligations, they have to rent an office for example. I don’t know, they have to submit declarations. They have to hold their general assembly in a certain period. These are issues that require both labor and cost. For this reason, there must be a membership fee. It is not easily collected either, in Turkey, such dues. That’s why they become dependent to the project. If there is no project, there is no money, if there is no money, there is no activity. In that sense, there is no association that comes to my mind right now that can develop without a project.”***

Children’s CSO

When asked about the CSOs that come to mind first, CSOs that are related to themselves, close to their field of study or the ones they cooperate with are listed. CSOs seen on the other end of dichotomies are not defined as actors, not seen, often not even mentioned.

There seems to be a domination on rights-basedness, and this is an important factor that determines whether CSOs consider other CSOs valid or not. It is possible to say that this hierarchy limits the possibilities of dialogue. Conservatives homogenize seculars less. CSOs that define themselves as secular, on the other hand, differentiate conservative CSOs. In this respect, it can be said that the network established by secular ones is much more rigid and impassable.



## 1.2. DIALOGUE MAPS

Civil society organizations were asked to evaluate 115 organizations operating both in their own and other themes in 4 axes within the scope of the research:

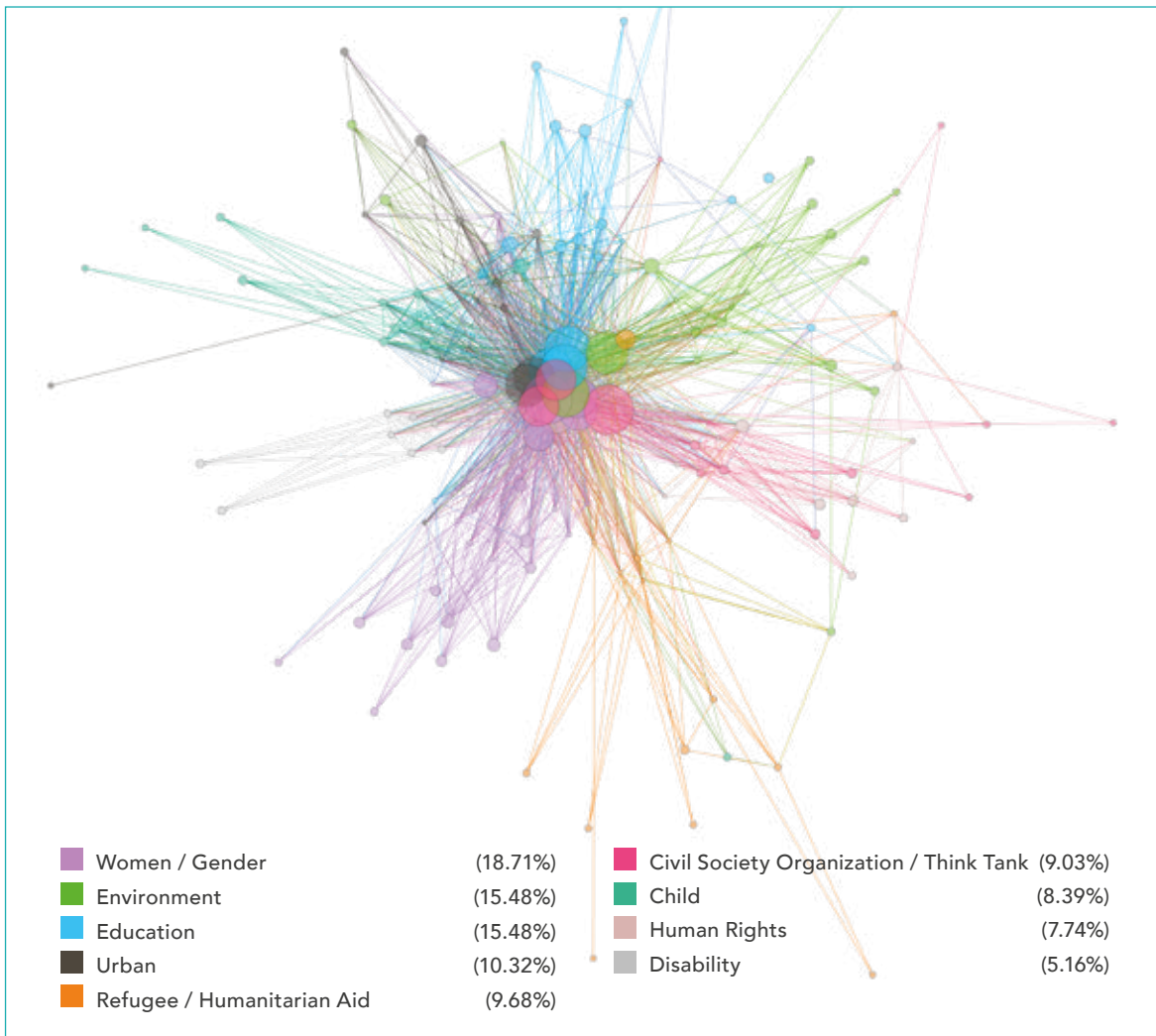
1. Working Together (Positive Approach):  
How would you consider working with this organization?
2. Working Together (Negative Approach):  
How would you consider working with this organization?
3. Contact: As an organization, have you ever had contact with this organization? [Yes No]
4. Logo: Can your logos be side by side with this organization? [Yes, we are positive - No, we are negative]

Each node in the maps represents a civil society organization, and each edge represents which CSO that CSO refers to. The places where the CSOs are located on the map are positioned according to the similarity of the scoring on this axis. In other words, the CSOs with similar scores are located close to each other and the CSOs with different scoring points are positioned far from each other. At the center of the maps, there are the most frequently expressed CSOs in these axes by different CSOs. The sizes (radiuses) of the points representing the CSOs were scaled according to the frequency of being recalled by other CSOs.

These four axes were examined according to two variables in order to portray the current state of dialogue between categories:

- Thematic area of the CSO (Field of Activity)
  - Women / Gender (18.7%)
  - Environment (15.5%)
  - Education (15.5%)
  - Urban (10.3%)
  - Refugee / Humanitarian Aid (9.7%)
  - Civil Society Organization / Think Tank (9.0%)
  - Child (8.4%)
  - Human Rights (7.8%)
  - Disability (5.2%)
- The dominant political position of the CSO
  - Secular (84.5%)
  - Conservative (15.5%)

**Map 1. Positive Approach According to the Area of Activity**



### 1.2.1. Positive Approach to Dialogue / Coexistence

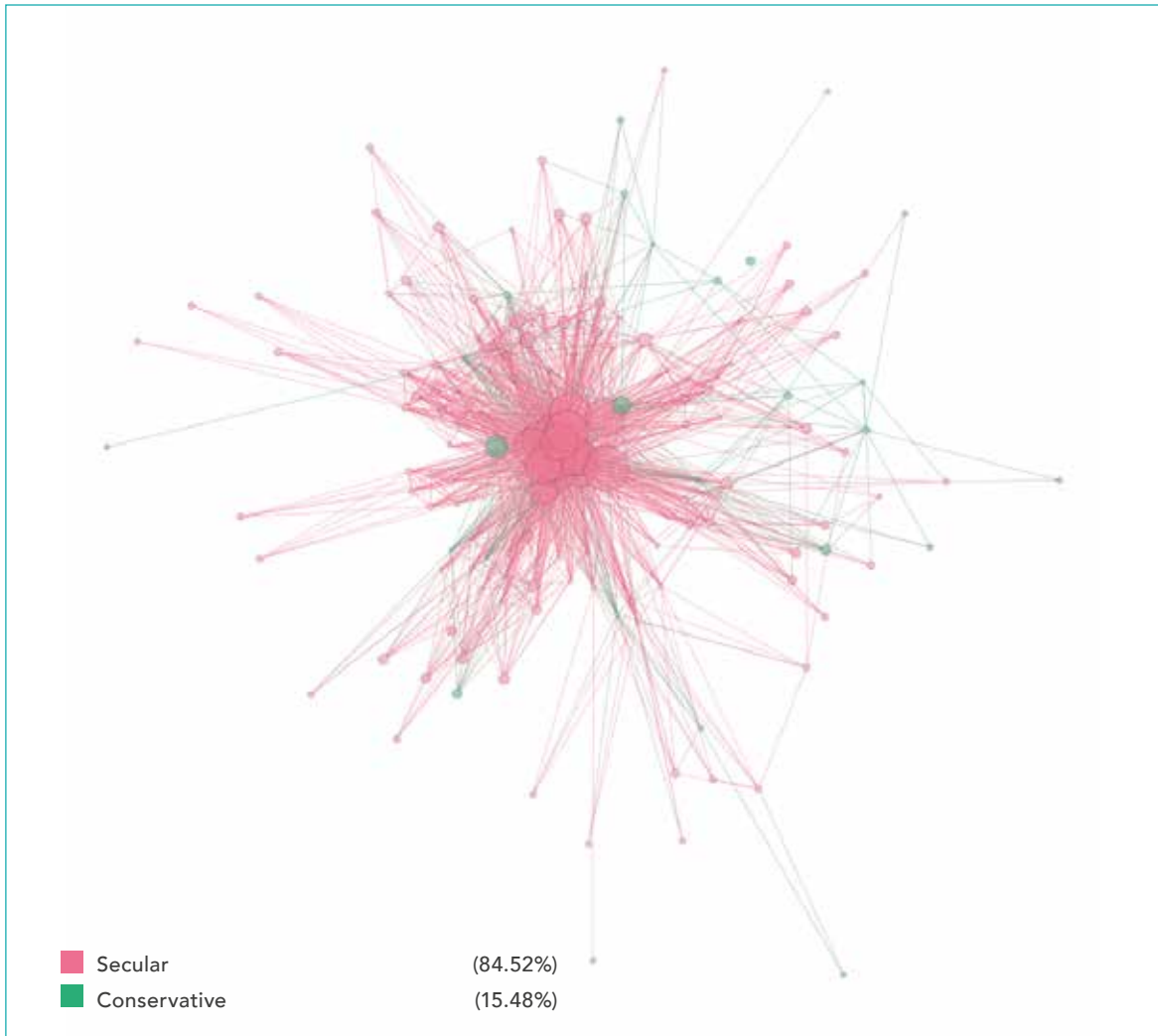
On the maps on the axis of positive approach, it is seen that CSOs operating in the same theme rate each other more positively. Women / gender CSOs tend to rate those operating in the same field more positively, environmental organizations tend to rate environmental organizations more positively, educational organizations tend to rate educational organizations more positively. On the other hand, this situation points to the limitation of contact or awareness between themes. The

positive approach between themes arouse from both low recognition and the belief that there are no common subjects between their own area and different thematic areas.

At the center of the positive approach map, the most known and active CSOs are located regardless of their thematic areas, political positions, and classification categories. It seems that the CSOs where positive perceptions are concentrated are those who work on civil society and the most visible ones among thematic areas.



**Map 2.** Positive Approach According to Political Position

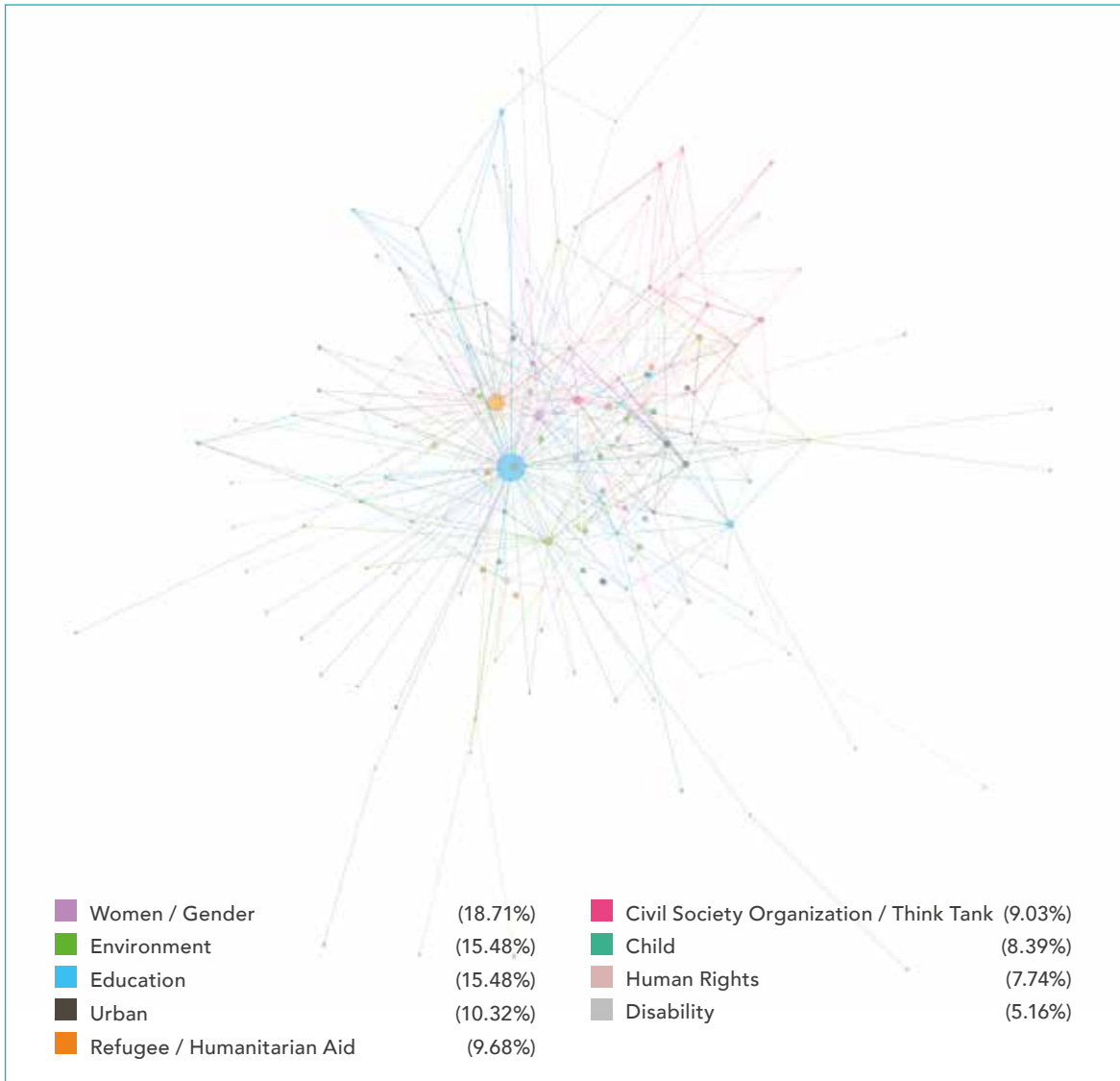


In CSO classifications, variables such as political party preference, religion, belief, identity, or ideology are less preferred by CSOs aggregating organizations working in their field, while separation into political position is evident when evaluating each other. CSOs are far from dialogue with CSOs they think are against their political position.

When considering the political positions of CSOs, it is seen that secular CSOs are more centrally located in positive approaches

than conservative ones. There are no Toryish CSOs positioned at the center of the political position map. Conservative CSOs that get closer to the center, on the other hand, approach the center not with the points they get from the secular segment, but with the scoring of the CSOs in the same position as theirs. When we look at the centrally located secular CSOs, it is seen that these CSOs are affirmed by both the CSOs in their political positions and partially conservative CSOs.

**Map 3. Negative Approach According to Area of Activity**



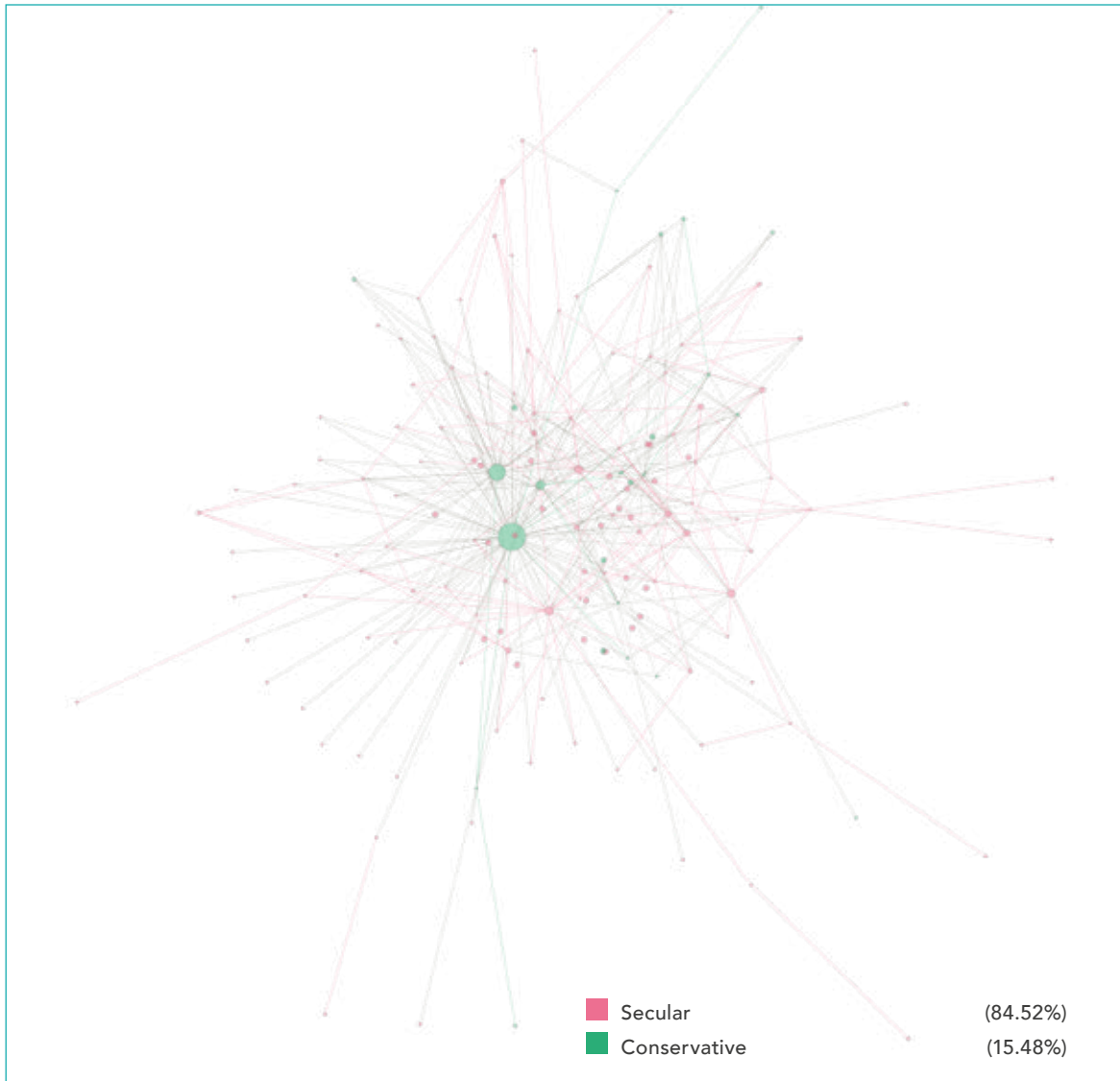
### 1.2.2. Negative Approach To Dialogue / Coexistence

When we look at the negative approach map, it is seen that CSOs negatively evaluate the CSOs that are far away from their area of activity rather than their own. In positive approaches, CSOs mention CSOs from

within their area of activity, and in negative approaches, they mention CSOs outside their area of activity. This situation can also be explained by the facts that CSOs knowing the organizations in their areas better as well as their activities, and them not knowing the CSOs outside their areas of activity and that they are closed to other areas.



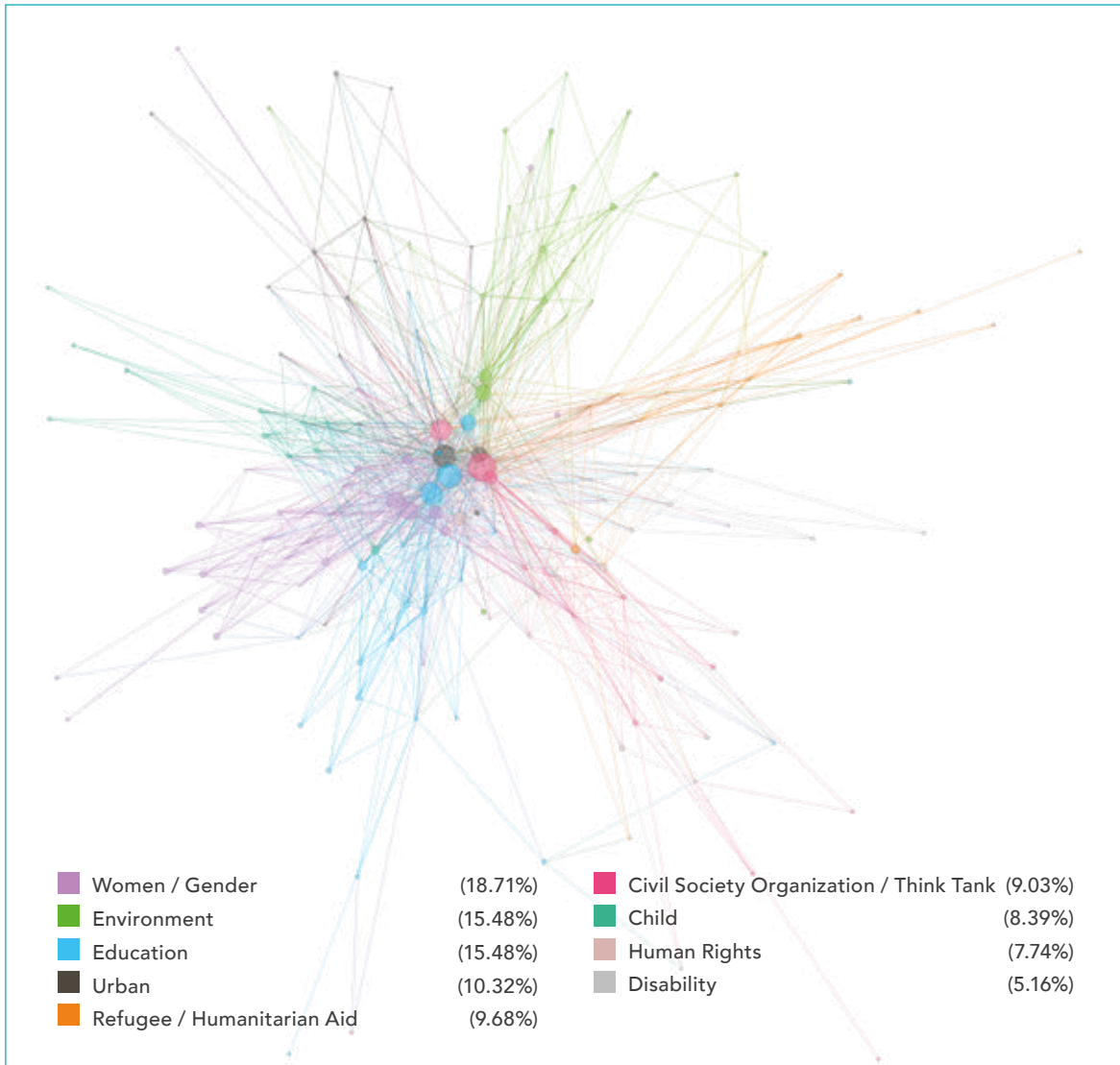
**Map 4.** Negative Approach According To Political Position



There is only one CSO at the center of the negative approach map. The negative approach towards this CSO operating in the field of education comes from all areas of activity. There is a refugee / humanitarian aid organization and two CSOs each operating in the field of women that approaches the center of the map that shows the CSOs who are perceived negatively. These three CSOs get negative points both from their own areas of activity and from the CSOs working on different themes.

The main factor that one education, one humanitarian aid/refugee and one women’s CSO are positioned at the center of the negative perception map agree upon and that creates the negative perception is political position. The criticism that these three CSOs are mostly negated by other CSOs is that they have strong ties with the government and that they are not transparent. These criticisms come from both secular CSOs and other conservative organizations operating in their own areas.

**Map 5.** Relationship Map According To Area of Activity



### 1.2.3. Having a Contact Before

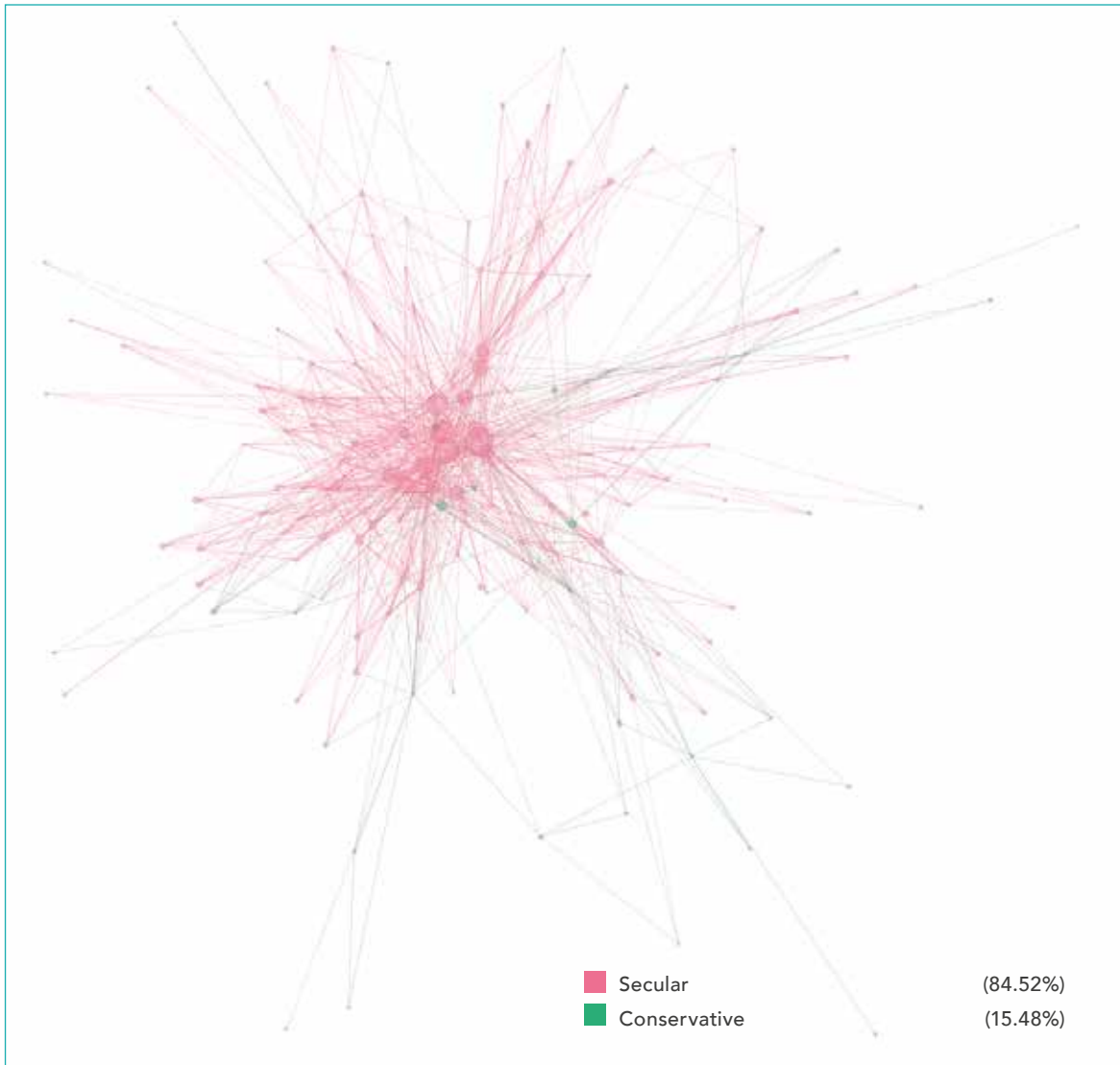
CSOs were asked about the other CSOs they had contact with in the past within the scope of the research. Considering the thematic category, CSOs working on civil society, think tanks and those in the field of urban area and education are the most contacted CSOs. On the other hand, when the relationship map is

examined, it is seen that CSOs mostly contact with CSOs operating in their areas of activity and that out-of-the-field relations are rarely established. As it is found in the qualitative analysis, CSOs do not know other CSOs operating in other themes, and they do not think that there is a common issue to agree upon.





**Map 6.** Relationship Map According To Political Position

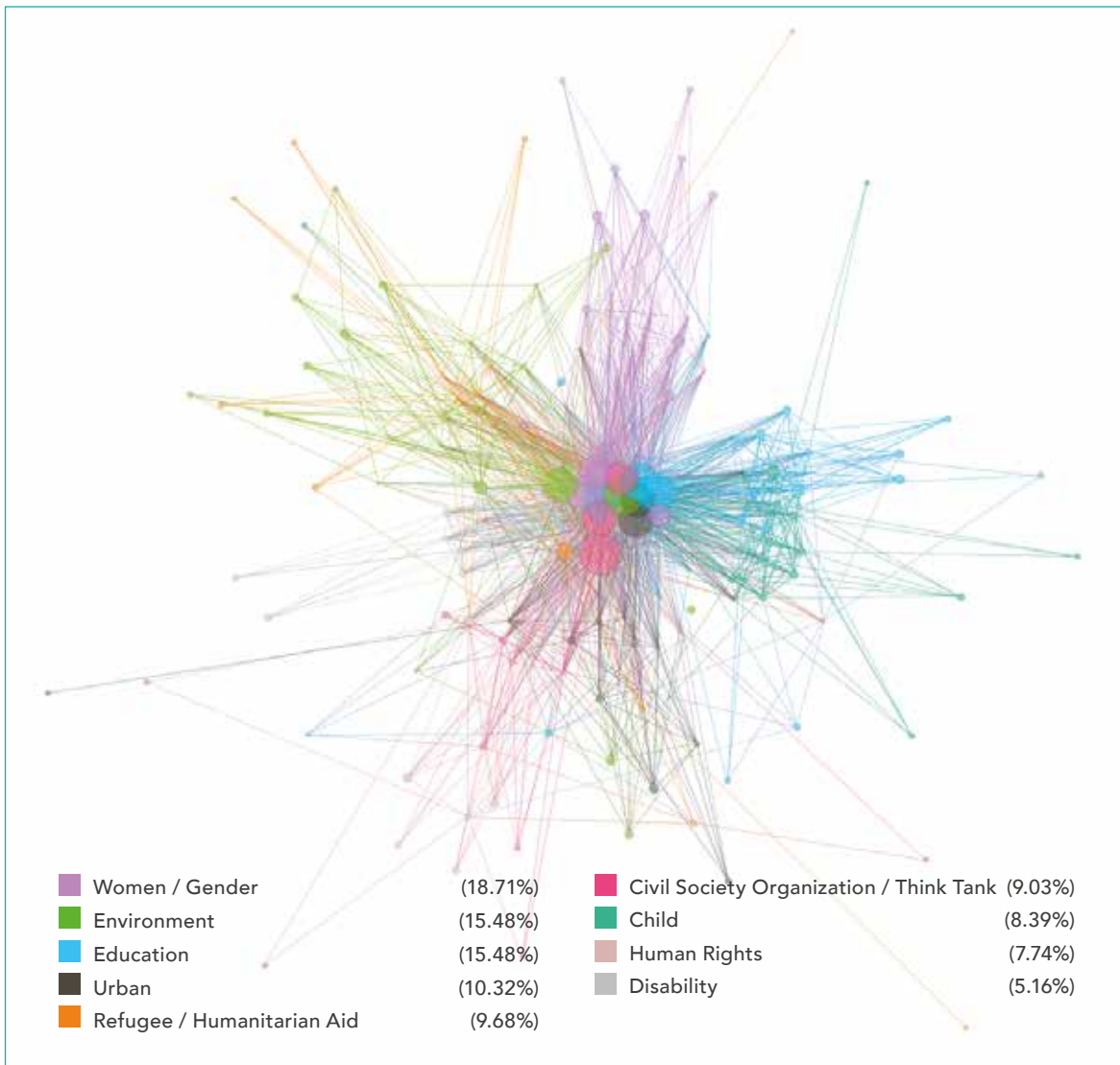


Out-of-the theme relationships are limited, but the doors of opportunity are open for such relationships. CSOs lean towards the relations to be developed on common issues as long as the others do not exceed the red lines they drew within their world views.

The most obvious dissidence among the relationship maps is political. Both

conservative and secular CSOs have little experience in interacting with each other. The limited experience of relations between CSOs with different political positions reduces the potential for contact and makes the distances clear. The need for environments, platforms, and events where CSOs from different political positions come together to increase the contact is evident.

**Map 7. Logos Being Side By Side According To Area Of Activity**



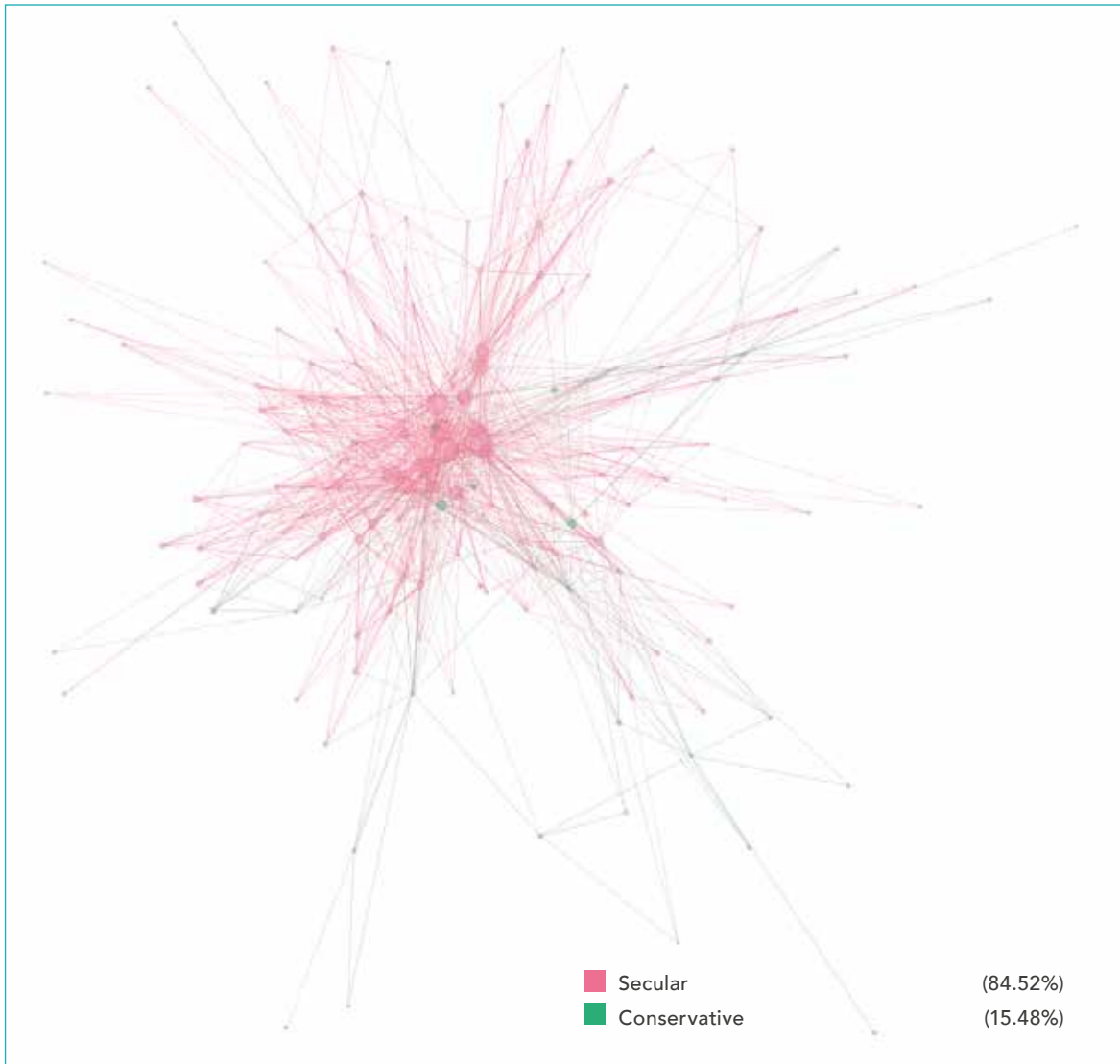
#### 1.2.4. Organizations' Logos Being Used Side By Side

CSOs that organizations approach most positively about having their logos side by side are the most visible CSOs operating in their

thematic areas and CSOs whose target group is civil society. Correlation inside the theme is higher than outside the theme. CSOs think that it is more appropriate to appear together with the CSOs operating in their area than with CSOs operating in other themes.



**Map 8.** Logos Being Side by Side According To Political Position



Looking at the perception of their logo being side by side, it can be seen that the political dichotomy clearly differentiates this area. Conservative CSOs and secular CSOs are positioned among themselves, and contact

with the perceived opposing position is limited. On the other hand, conservative CSOs do not categorically exclude the secular position, and they are more open about working and appearing together.

### 1.3. AWARENESS, RECOGNITION AND CONTACT-ORIENTED PERCEPTIONS IN CSO-CSO RELATIONS

Within the scope of the research, in order to understand the dynamics of recognition among CSOs, the representatives were given predetermined CSO lists that were divided according to thematic areas of activity in order to understand the dynamics of appreciation among CSOs, and they were asked whether they heard about the organizations in this list, whether they have contacted them until today, whether they have been in contact with these CSOs as an organization as well as what kind of approach they took, their attitude towards their logos being side by side and how reputable they found these organizations.

The questions asked in this context are as follows:

1. Being Heard: Have you heard about this organization before? [Yes – No]
2. Contact: As an organization, have you ever had contact with this organization? [Yes - No]
3. Working Together (Positive Approach): How would you look at working together with this organization? [Positive - Negative]
4. Logo: Can your logos be side by side with this organization? [Yes, we look positively - No, we look negatively]
5. Reputation: How reputable would you find this organization? [1 Not reputable at all - can you score them out of 10 with 10 being highly reputable?]

CSO lists in question were discussed in two lists as the CSOs that were asked to all thematic categories and as those operating only in the relevant theme. Within the scope of the research, it was aimed that the CSOs included in the given lists, which include CSOs that were asked to all thematic categories to include organizations with high visibility and capacity

in the civil field in Turkey. The CSOs listed according to the thematic area were organized in a way to include CSOs that stand out among their themes and their activities with different target groups or in different localities and in different working areas of the same theme within the thematic category. In addition, it was considered that the CSOs contacted within the scope of the research are included in these lists.

Representatives of the civil society organizations were asked how their organizations will take positions regarding other CSOs operating in their own thematic categories, how they perceive these organizations and how reputable they consider these CSOs as organizations.

In this context, the institutional approaches of the following CSOs were asked to the following number of different organizations.

- 16 CSOs working in the field of education were asked to education CSOs,
- 14 CSOs working in the field of children were asked to children CSOs,
- 8 CSOs working in the field of disability were asked to disability CSOs,
- 16 CSOs working in the field of women and gender were asked to women and gender CSOs,
- 14 CSOs working in the field of environment were asked to environmental CSOs
- 13 CSOs working in the field of urban area and culture were asked to the CSOs working in the same field in different cities,
- 13 CSOs working in the field of of Refugee / Humanitarian Aid were asked to CSOs working in the same field,
- 10 CSOs working on civil society and think tanks were asked to CSOs working in the same field,
- Human rights CSOs were asked to 6 CSOs working in the field of human rights and freedoms.

The averages of the answers given to five questions regarding these CSO lists were taken in the analysis phase. Findings are in Table 4.



Table 4. In-theme Contacts

	Being Heard of	Themes	Working Together (Positive Approach)	Logo	Reputation (In a scale of 1 – 10)		
					Average	Min.	Max.
Education CSOs	78.1%	58.4%	80.7%	82.8%	7.34	3.89	8.63
Children's CSOs	82.7%	59.6%	94.3%	94.8%	7.81	5.13	8.78
Disability CSOs	90.8%	64.6%	94.4%	100.0%	6.42	5.00	7.50
Women's CSOs	81.6%	61.1%	90.0%	88.1%	7.16	3.94	8.72
Environmental CSOs	79.1%	66.2%	93.7%	85.8%	6.80	5.20	8.33
Urban CSOs	53.0%	26.6%	89.6%	91.5%	7.37	5.00	8.40
Refugees / Humanitarian Aid CSOs	80.6%	72.8%	90.9%	90.3%	7.28	5.00	8.60
Civil Society Organizations / Think Tanks	86.7%	68.2%	76.9%	78.9%	5.97	3.00	8.33
Human Rights CSOs	88.9%	65.1%	72.2%	72.2%	4.47	1.00	8.33

When we look according to the thematic categories, it is seen that the themes with the highest rate of being heard by the other CSOs in the field are the disability, human rights, civil society and think tanks. Urban CSOs hear about each other at the least. This situation can be explained especially by not recognizing local organizations operating in different provinces.

It was found that the contacts between CSOs working in the same thematic area are not as high as their recognizance of each other. The category with the lowest contact is urban area, and this is related to low recognition. It is observed that the category with the highest contact between CSOs is the refugee / humanitarian aid area. As shared in the previous section, CSO representatives describe this area by making definitions over various issues and needs such as housing, livelihood, food aid, sanitation, rights, health, and other services. It can be stated that the situation of coming together of CSOs working in humanitarian aid and refugees area within

the scope of providing services and rights-based works among different fields is more frequent. In other categories, the level of contact is 55-65%. Contact between education and child-based CSOs is low compared to contacts between women's, disability and environmental organizations. While CSOs working in the field of education and children describe their fields of activity, they separate them according to the subject of study and target audience compared to other categories. Therefore, their contact with CSOs other than their own area is limited.

Among think tanks and the CSOs working on human rights and civil society, the rate of positive approach to working with CSOs in their thematic area is 70%, CSOs working in education and urban areas is 80%, and CSOs that operate in all other categories is above 90%. CSOs with negative approach in the field of education and women to working together are the CSOs that are considered to have organic ties with the government and that are called GONGO as well as the ones

that are brought to the agenda with cases of negligence and abuse, and the other CSOs which are observed to have little information about their activities. The reason why the average positive approach to working together in the field of human rights is somewhat low is that faith-based rights organizations such as Alevi organizations give low reputation points when they evaluate each other over their proximities or distances to mainstream politics.

If we look at the prominent findings in the thematic category breakdown:

Education CSOs seem to have a positive opinion about each other. Although CSOs working in the field of education have a positive view of their logos being side by side with other education CSOs, their existing communication and contact with each other is on the minimal. Conservative oriented education CSOs and the CSOs described as GONGOs are separated in this case. Representatives express that they stand aloof from their logos being side by side. However, there are also Islamic CSOs whose reputation is generally above the average of education CSOs. CSOs which are considered to have a strict political stance among both secular and conservative CSOs score lower in reputation.

Children's CSOs which carry out one-on-one activities with the most disadvantaged groups of children such as Romani children and children with cancer, have the highest reputation among other thematic ratings. CSO with the lowest reputation among children's organizations in all categories, is a children's CSO with a large capacity and high donation income, but criticized for the way children are used in visibility studies and for not being transparent. It can be said that CSOs that are insufficient in terms of transparency and accountability are on the focus of the criticisms.

It is observed that there is an interesting dynamic in terms of relations among disability organizations. In fact, among disability organizations, recognition of each other is high, although working together and using logos together are mostly approached positive, the reputation points given by CSOs to each other are at the lowest level among all categories. In other words, disability CSOs have a poor grade on seeing each other respectable.

CSOs with the lowest rate of being heard among the CSOs working in the field of gender and women are conservative women's CSOs and faith-based organizations. Women CSOs that work on violence against women, women's economic empowerment and women's participation in politics are the best known. When looking at how reputable CSOs working in the field of women and gender consider each other, it is seen that the difference between the lowest and highest reputation scores is high. As mentioned earlier, organizations with organic ties, such as kinship relations with the government, have a low average reputation score. When we exclude these organizations, the average reputation scores of women and gender CSOs are between 6 and 8 out of 10. The average reputation score of women's CSOs that define themselves in a conservative line and women's CSOs considered in a secular and intellectual perspective are close to each other and both at 6 points. The reputation score of the opposition conservative women's CSOs is higher (6.7 out of 10). CSOs working on specific issues such as Alevi women are not well known, but they are not seen as disreputable. LBGTI + CSOs are respected by women's organizations and their average reputation score is above 8. Similarly, LBGTI + associations grade women's associations close to the score that women's associations grade organizations in their field.

Among environmental organizations, authorized organizations have low reputation



and contact is kept low. However, approach to collaboration and the use of logo together are very positive. In recent years, CSOs and local environmental CSOs working on issues such as clean food, domestic production, environmentally friendly cleaning have also been respected by other CSOs working in the field of environment.

In the interviews, being in the same environment and reading the reports of the think tanks and organizations working on civil society is sometimes considered as contact as well. When we look at the breakdown of CSOs, contact with Islamic civil society organizations / think tanks in this category is low.

CSOs working in the field of refugees and humanitarian aid have a high positive approach to working with each other and these CSOs are open to the use of logos together. In the field of refugees and humanitarian aid, although the approach to working with organizations that have Islamic values or that only carry out aid activities for Muslims is not very low, the average reputation score is lower than other CSOs in the same theme. Contact with smaller or medium-sized CSOs is higher compared to higher capacity CSOs within the category.

Finally, it is seen that recognition and contact with each other within the same theme is lower in the urban category than in any other categories. The most recognized CSOs are those that are close to the Istanbul-based business world.

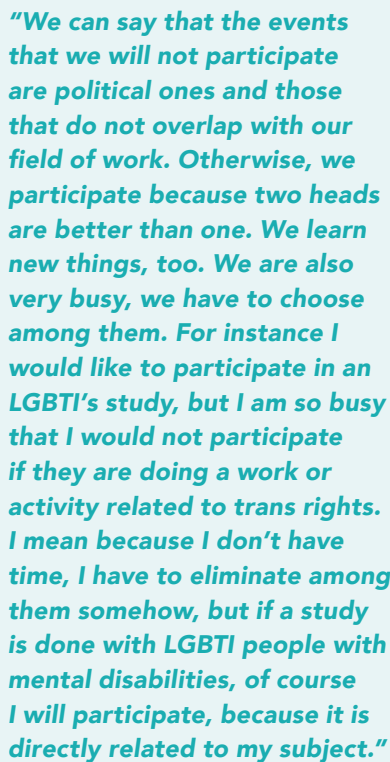
When we look at the approaches to working together between CSOs operating in the same field, it is seen that there is a positive environment. However, contacts made so far are low. In other words, it seems that the desire for dialogue between CSOs has increased, but it still has not been put into practice. Desire has practically no equivalent yet.

### 1.3.1. Contacts Between Themes

Studies in the field of civil society not only in Turkey but around the world are moving towards meeting more specific needs. Issues that affect each other and trigger each other (such as gender, poverty, participation) or create a multiplier effect on disadvantage (such as disability, age, gender, belief, identity, etc.) make it necessary to study different issues together. A single thematic area of expertise is not enough for this diversity. For example, the disadvantages created by the climate change and environmental issues which have global effects in segments such as women, older adults, youth, and children cannot be studied by environmental organizations alone, and may as well be left out of the expertise of CSOs working with these segments.


Both the perceptions towards organizations and the contacts between themes were examined through the approaches of CSOs to different CSOs operating at national level in Turkey that have a high level of awareness and visibility. When CSOs operating in different themes are asked to CSOs by their names, it is observed that the approach to working together is not negative, and that the factors that lead to determine the approach to working together are secular-conservative and biasness dichotomies.

Although meeting with CSOs from different thematic areas is viewed positively on a discursive level, the idea of coming together on off-topic themes is rather vague. This situation appears in qualitative findings. There are doubts about the necessity of getting together on issues that an CSO does not find directly related to its field. This situation is observed especially for CSOs working in the field of women and gender. It is observed that CSOs working in the field of disability or environment may not be able to imagine establishing common ground with gender CSOs.



***“We can say that the events that we will not participate are political ones and those that do not overlap with our field of work. Otherwise, we participate because two heads are better than one. We learn new things, too. We are also very busy, we have to choose among them. For instance I would like to participate in an LGBTI’s study, but I am so busy that I would not participate if they are doing a work or activity related to trans rights. I mean because I don’t have time, I have to eliminate among them somehow, but if a study is done with LGBTI people with mental disabilities, of course I will participate, because it is directly related to my subject.”***

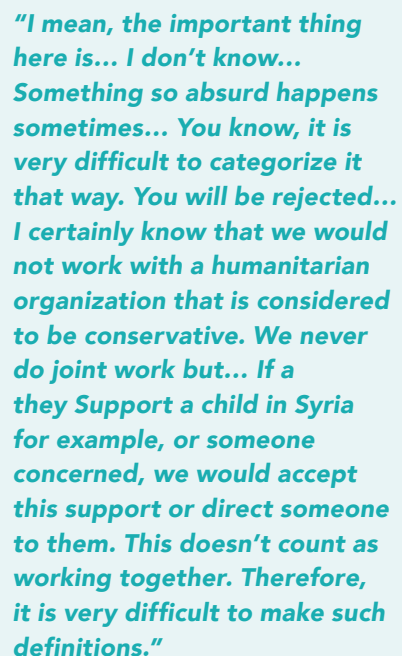
Disability CSO



***“(Speaking about the women’s CSO working on economic empowerment) But I do not know how to find a common issue between them and our fields.”***


Environmental CSO

Not being in the same field of activity is put forward as a legitimate reason for not meeting with certain CSOs. The differentiation between civil society organizations over the conservative-secular dichotomy or political dichotomy is often explained by the fields of study being different. Depending on where this scale the CSO remains, CSOs at the other end of the scale don’t seem that way even if they are in the same field of study. This is particularly among CSOs working on women’s theme.



***“I mean, the important thing here is... I don’t know... Something so absurd happens sometimes... You know, it is very difficult to categorize it that way. You will be rejected... I certainly know that we would not work with a humanitarian organization that is considered to be conservative. We never do joint work but... If a they Support a child in Syria for example, or someone concerned, we would accept this support or direct someone to them. This doesn’t count as working together. Therefore, it is very difficult to make such definitions.”***

Women’s CSO



***“(He’s talking about religious-based organizations)... No, we won’t participate. Because it’s really not our field.”***

Women’s CSO







Working in the same thematic category is decisive in getting together. There are also thematic boundaries for inviting other CSOs to events. At this point, there is a withdrawal among themes. This situation is clearly observed especially on inviting other CSOs to events. Some examples showing the limitations of contacts between themes are included in the interviews. The dynamics of sending invitations to other CSOs, which is one of the indicators of dialogue between CSOs was also discussed in the Current Status and Determinants of the Civil Society Dialogue part.

Thematic introversion is observed as one of the obstacles to inter-thematic dialogue among civil society. As can be seen from the dialogue maps, there is a thematic dissociation in the existing contact between CSOs. This shows that CSOs are in contact with those who are closer to their field of work, and they also limit their invitations to events.

As can be seen from the maps, the categories with the most contact between themes are children, disability, and education areas. Disability-Children, Education-Children, Disability-Education or Disability-Children-Education subjects stand out as the most open categories to collaboration among themes. Women and gender field, on the other hand, is a bit more introverted, as can be seen from the interviews. A distinct thematic introversion is observed across CSOs.



***“A: Do you have a criterion for the civil society organizations you invite? According to what do you convey your calls?”***

***G: Well, it happens according to this, we invite CSOs that are active in our field, whom we work together, and who are interested in our subject.”***  
 Women’s CSO



***G: The ones we invite are mostly CSOs working close to our field of work. In other words those who make educational studies, research studies, institutions that carry out complementary studies to support these.***  
 Think Tank

## 1.4. CURRENT STATUS AND DETERMINANTS OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

In the previous section, it was found that taking part in the same field of activity is determinant in their approach to CSOs' contact with others and to working together. In this section, other features that CSOs pay attention to while collaborating with other CSOs are discussed. In addition, the focus was on the conditions (such as leadership and logo use criteria in the execution of joint works) to establish collaboration with others, and on the factors that affects their participation in the events and their choice of sending event invitations.

### 1.4.1. Collaboration Criterias

In the meetings, questions were asked towards the types of dialogue and collaborations established by CSOs with others and their criterias for collaboration. In this context, some

criteria were presented to CSO representatives and they were asked to evaluate according to how much they attach importance to these criteria when their organizations collaborate with another CSO. When CSOs were asked to grade the criterias between 1 and 5 for collaborating with any institution according to their importance, it was seen that the most important criterion was the capacity of the institution to collaborate with. This is followed by the mistakes of the institution or its managers other than the disgraceful offenses made in the past, having a similar world view with the organization, the other institutions with which the institution collaborates, its managers / manager profile, the funding sources it receives, and its proximity to or distane from the government. The scale in which the institution operates appears as the criterion that is relatively less important in the ranking in establishing collaboration.

One of the most important issues that CSOs pay attention to before collaborating with a CSO is their capacity to do business (58.4%). When we look at the criteria taken into consideration in establishing collaboration

**Graph 2.** Collaboration Criteria According to CSO Categories (Scoring Between 1 - 5 / Average)





between CSOs, almost half of them attach importance to the institution to be collaborated with being close to their own world view (46.9%). 38.9% of the CSOs state that they look at the manager profile of the CSOs they will collaborate with, and 38.1% look at the funds the CSO receives. Past mistakes of the organization and managers are also considered important by 41.6%.

Ideological and political biasness are shown as the reason for not coming together. The worldview adopted and represented by organizations is one of the determinants of contact.



**"A: (...) Association?"**

**G: I heard. We did not have contact, we do not work together. (...) I don't know what is in its field of activity, but I know there is something ideological about it."**

Think Tank



**"A: What about (...) Association?"**

**G: No. But I know about them. It is the direct thing of the government. For example, I don't work with them because they don't meet the objectivity criteria. They are not scientific and neutral.**

**A: Have you ever had contact with them?"**

**G: We didn't. It is used directly as an instrument of a particular political wing, and we will never get together with it."**


Think Tank



**"Well, since we don't have much contact with them, I can't name them either. I mean, I don't know, like (...) that is a religious-based, of some missions or some sects or some specific aims, we call it the (...) Association among us. I mean, it is a civil society organization that aims to raise staff for government. So we don't do business with them. We don't work together. (...) For example, it is one of the most distant organizations to us. As I said, religious aid organizations and stuff are distant to us. So we don't work with them. We stay away from them..."**

Disability CSO

The views of CSOs on the conditions under which they would get together with CSOs they have never collaborated with, are parallel to these criteria. Here, again, one of the main criteria is the CSOs business capacity. This finding supports the findings of Graph 2.




*"If it is more experienced in the field of study, we can of course give leadership to the CSO. So when we look at the "background" of the project we will work on, if its experience on the subject of the project is more than us, then of course we can give leadership. However, we do not have such a thing in our minds at the moment, it depends on what the project subject will be... We do not have any concerns about our name to be seen everywhere. Because even while we are explaining the (...) program to different institutions, we tell them to copy it, because the only thing that matters to us is to transfer it to our know-how, as long as we can create this ecosystem. Therefore, any institution can lead if it has competence and expertise in that field."*

Education CSO




*"Capacity becomes a criterion, right. As we said at the beginning, we do not start off with an institution that has a capacity we do not believe in. (...) We have a partnership method for that. We have criteria. We consider everything from its social media accounts to its presence in international lists. That's why capacity is important. Our main goal is to understand its capacity."*

Refugee Association



*"The CSO should pursue rights-based work and case management, we have the condition for the CSO to implement the values I have just mentioned, and we need to sign a protocol etc. between us that these values will be applied without exception in the work that we will implement, so we can do it. That would be our condition. They may have the leadership, it doesn't matter to us."*

Refugee Association



*"First of all, we look at the previous work of the CSO. We look at its capacity. We check if it is transparent or not. Then, whether under our leadership or under their leadership, collaboration depends on the common protocol to be made. We prefer it to be written. There must be rules, records. A flexible working style is something that does not suit us."*

Human Rights CSO



It is expected to establish a consensus on common values in new collaborations with CSOs that other CSOs have not worked together before. Consensus in common values, vision and approach and compliance of organizations with these values or their acceptance or recognition are required.



***“We don’t necessarily have to be the leader. In general, we try to support other institutions. I think about what would be our absolute must. The most fundamental thing for us is the issue of violence against women and children. Having a clear stance on that issue. Working on gender equality issues, for example, if we are working together, working with people with whom we can develop a common method. But we also work with groups that say justice, not gender equality, for example. We are also working with them (training programs). But we would not sign a statement about it. We prefer to take part only in applications that we collaborate with and think we can take further.”***


Children’s CSO



***“Leadership can be in another CSO of course, we have concern on that. Again, as I have just said, they should work in full compliance with the Declaration of Human Rights in terms of both current rhetoric and their studies, and should have a transparent financial structure. They should have a good track record on issues like harrasment. This does not mean that they should have a record of dealing with harassment, they can fight against it and that would be enough. So having such a good track record would be enough for us. I mean the human rights perspective is important to us. Not only in the LGBTI area, but also in the Kurdish issue and refugees. We would never collaborate with an organization that is xenophobic, that is, having concerns about working fot Syrians. It’s not just a LGBTI issue, what I’m talking about.”***

Women / Gender CSO


In the absence of recognizance, financial transparency is among the criteria as well as meeting common values.



***“First we talk face to face and see if we meet on the common ground, and secondly we look at the content of the activity to be held. We check whether the activities at the event are compatible with our general opinion. Finally, we look at the budget, (...) Regardless of who the leader is, we attach importance to transparency. If there is an inflow and outflow of money and we are not the leader, we want to control it. Even if we are the leader, we give information to the other party, and we control it as well.”***

Disability CSO

Even if there is no institutional recognizance is sought in the collaborations between CSOs, acquaintance is deemed important, even by name. The distance kept to the CSOs when without acquaintance is prominent.



***“A: What kind of activity would you carry out with a CSO that you have never collaborated with before? Under what conditions?”***

***G: First of all, we would collaborate in a limited way. If we do not know them before, we would have limited collaboration. In other words, even when we do not have a common ground about their work, we start with setting boundaries that we will undertake and continue working that way. If this is the first time we collaborate, we would usually do so in public and with limited collaboration as I said.***

***A: Well, can the other CSO be the leader?***

***G: Sure, it can. It depends on our determined position being shared with us from the beginning, so if we think that they would have a better position than us, and we can understand as it would be their field of work, we would not hesitate to hold back on this issue.”***

Think Tank



**G1: So even if we haven't done business before, we definitely need to know the people we will do business with. And if something like that happens, I know that this will not be such a direct answer to the question, but let's suppose we know someone as an academician, for example. As a result, there would also be a civil society organization he works with. Let's say we have not collaborated with him as an institution before, but I think that we can work directly with that institution because we know that person. That is why our conditions are prerequisites, I think we would not have sharp edges, depending on the subject.**

**G2: Exactly, it may vary depending on the workload, depending on the subject, so maybe their network is wider than ours - I'm speaking on a topic basis - then they take more initiative. If we are more engaged as a subject area, we will take more initiative or maybe we are in a position to bear more workload depending on our capacity. So we would take more initiative, they take less. I think it's something we'll just talk about and decide together while or at the beginning of the work."**

Think Tank

Especially women's and children's organizations do not trust CSOs they did not know before. Collaboration with organizations that women / gender and children CSOs are not acquainted with is either not established at all or it is preferred to be limited and "low profile" collaborations.



**"Might be, but we usually approach warily to partnering with CSOs that we haven't met in some platforms, done a project or at least a joint business together before. We do not prefer to do business with an organization that we do not know. We prefer to collaborate with the organizations we have come together at least on some platforms. We can also be partners. Is it called a leading organization, we can also be leaders. We have no problems with that, but we prefer to know them a little bit."**


Women / Gender CSO



**"With a civil society organization that we have never done business with before, we would most likely prefer a collaboration where we will take the lead first and will keep a little more control. We would prefer to start with an acquaintance process, or at least with low profile jobs where we will do the most of the work as much as possible. We would prefer studies that do not include economic criteria much and that will help the staff to get to know each other."**


Children's CSO

The hesitations among children's CSOs before establishing collaborations with a CSO that they have not met before are about contact with the target group of children.



***"The answer depends on what will be done together. If they will work directly with our field of activity and with the children who benefit from it, it would not be very suitable for them to have what is called leadership. Because we are the ones who are acquainted with the children and whom children can establish a strong bond of trust. That's why I am not so sure. We probably wouldn't want that too much. In fact, we can work together as long as we work in accordance with our principles and child safety policy. Otherwise, we won't."***


Children CSO



***"I believe certain criteria can be followed. In other words, it is necessary to think about it at some point considering the events, but when we do something, those social media posts are critical. How this will be reflected in the press. The approach towards children due to our sensitivity is also valuable. Because the children is our target group which is the most fundamental for us, and we are talking about a process that starts with the approach to it and cthat ontinues with the approach to their families and how this is reflected."***

Children CSO

CSOs with large capacities are more hesitant to lead. This is much more obvious among CSOs close to the business world. There are also goals such as being a pioneer in the field, being the owner of the subject or being the main supporter under the name of leadership.



***"It may be appropriate, but it also depends on the details of the project. I am telling you that we work in the field of education for girls and make a difference. If we are to collaborate in this sense, maybe we can accept the leadership of an international organization. Because we are the institution we think is and who wants to be a leader in Turkey in this field. Therefore, it may be more difficult for us to collaborate with a national CSO with whom we work exactly on the same issue."***

Urban CSO







Aid organizations do not consider leadership important in collaborating with CSOs that have not been collaborated before as long as they meet a need.



***“Sure, leadership is something that is not in the foreground for us. The important thing is as we said a little while ago. I mean, I will do something, and what will that CSO add to that? For example, let’s say there is something we cannot do. While operating in that country, that CSO has that competence. Sometimes it happens, for example that CSO is a very strong, deep-rooted and a large scale CSO there. Okay, then we will be the fundraiser and build a small team there. Sometimes it can be a very small CSO. Then we will open all our agencies there. And they can become the partner who undertakes the work here. It can be of any kind. Leadership varies a lot, depending on the situation. We can be the secondary. We don’t need an office or so. Because we have all kinds of examples. The important thing is to be positioned in accordance with the need there, and to know what we have there.”***


Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO



***“So, it a division of labor can be made. For example, if humanitarian aid is required, a division of labor can be done such as one could get the cheese, olive, oil, and they can show support in another area. Other than that, there will be no condition, it would be just acting together. How we can do it can be discussed. Otherwise, I do not think that there will be any conditions with these associations, because each association has its own field and experience. Such a joint work can be done. These are done from time to time.”***


Education CSO

We can say that there are problems arising from the CSOs’ previous collaboration experiences as the distribution of tasks between organizations are not clarified and as this has become a criterion in new collaborations. In collaborations with CSOs that have not met before, the importance of dividing the work, determining the boundaries, and clarifying the distribution of tasks is frequently emphasized from the very beginning.




***“The primary condition would be everything to be spoken openly from the very beginning. Everything needs to be done with determination, division of labor and also with regular reporting. It would be a job to be followed closely. Leadership can of course be in another CSO, but it also depends on the weight of the project we will do. So if it is a job from the area of expertise of the other CSO, we will leave the leadership to them anyway, but we still want this work to be followed up with regular reports. We want everything to be in order. Both for public trust and for our own business. We are highly inspected, like other organizations within and outside of our area. We want it to be duly and with wide range of influence. So we want the number of people we reach to be high.”***

Education CSO



***“Leadership doesn’t matter. Whoever the coordination belongs, they can carry out the work. I think the main thing here is the division of labor. In other words, the first step of collaboration is to define the division of labor correctly and to act in accordance with the definition made at the beginning. This is something that will apply to all CSOs and other institutions. The obligations to be written correctly. (...) Usually when the division of labor is done right from the beginning, there never been a conflict for us. However, while developing a collaboration, it is useful to clearly determine who has a job to be done and things such as design and announcement.”***

Urban CSO



***“The distribution of tasks should be clear. In other words, the sharing of responsibility should be equal if possible, but if we are talking on a topic basis, if one group has deeper knowledge on a subject, the other group will definitely have a role in this. It is necessary to pay attention to such issues. The institution may come from a different background, but we may be more sensitive on not making racist and discriminatory statements.”***

Environmental CSO





One of the concerns about who will be the leader of joint business in collaborations to be established with CSOs that have not met before is about visibility. Another criterion is not to be left behind in terms of visibility in the joint business when the leadership is at another CSO.



***“(When leadership is in another CSO). It may happen. But leadership should not contradict our principles. We may be hosted by an institution or we may have participated in their organization. But if we collaborate, they shouldn’t leave us behind. It is possible for us to get together with many institutions as our field of work touches so many areas.”***

Women’s CSO

A significant portion of CSOs care about establishing partnerships rather than taking leadership. In addition, fund receiving status is determinant in establishing collaboration between CSOs. Although the criteria for leadership determined during the fund applications are decisive, partnership is expected in the collaboration process.



***“Sometimes in the world of projects, as you know, there are people who are in leadership position, even on paper, due to their funding design. It doesn’t concern us that much, but the most important thing for us to collaborate in practice is to interact, to make decisions together, to be able to do the job together. Regular communication. Designing everything together, exchanging information about the events beforehand, close communication and good human relations after doing the event together. Fortunately, we have been in good relations with the institutions we have collaborated with until now.”***

Think Tank



***“Until now, we have never received a negative response on collaborating with an organization. (...) Or, for example, there are applicants. We become co-applicants. In some situations, another organization applies. It depends on the circumstances and situation. For example, sometimes another organization decides what qualification the main applicant for the title of call or grant should be. We can be co-applicants or partners. This actually depends entirely on the nature of the project. So the situation depends on the conditions and competencies.”***

Women/Gender CSO

CSOs that did not consider agreeing as a criteria and who found it important to share the same purpose were rarely encountered during the interviews. And they are mostly from the LGBTI + area working in the gender field.

**G:** *Of course, the condition would be to agree collectively on the event. Because it was written among our principles, if I am not mistaken, not necessarily having the same world view with every organization we collaborate with or agreeing on every issue, because we are open to change and transform together, to convince each other, and we believe that this is something that improves institutions. Starting from that, as I said, if we share the same purpose specifically in terms of efficiency, this is the necessary condition. We do not need to have a similar opinion on every subject.*

**A:** *How about the other CSO being the leader?*

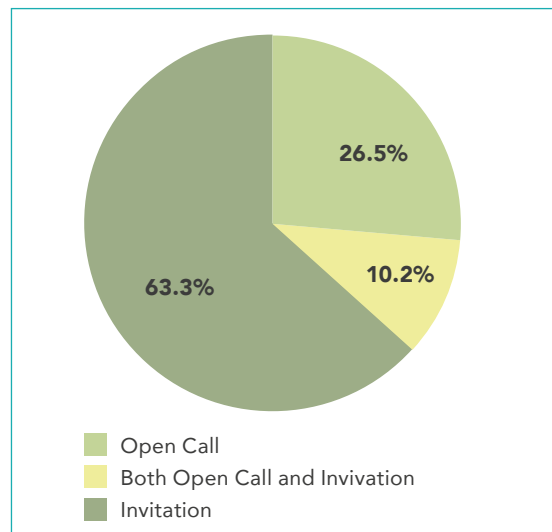
**G:** *It can be.*  
Women/Gender CSO

It is possible to say that the criteria adopted by CSOs for collaboration have developed a process that leads to “collaborations between similar ones”. There are similar trends in inviting other CSOs to events as well.

### 1.4.2. Invitation Procedures and Criteria For Getting Together

The CSO representatives were asked how they invited other CSOs to their events which they held with the participation of other CSOs. According to the findings, 26.5% of the CSOs stated that they made an open call to CSOs for the event. 63.3% say that they invite other CSOs to their events with procedures. 10.2% of them stated that they made a general open call but also sent invitations to certain CSOs in their networks.

Graph 3. Types of Calls



Although the process of invitation to events is defined as an open call, when we look at the qualitative data, it is seen that this open call is mostly a process where the collaborated CSOs are invited first, and that CSOs mostly invite similar ones. The situation that CSOs do not see CSOs that they find distant among the actors when describing the field of civil society, works in the same way in event invitations and open calls.



**"So we constantly hold talks. Let me call them talks. We invite the CSOs we work closely with, to the talks we hold about every day, 5 days a week, within the framework of the (...) campaign. (...) Of course, we invite those who have a more similar world view to us, at least whom we agree at the minimum. If there is no identity of views between us, we do not invite them."**

Environment CSO



**"G2: Actually, m who we have worked together before... Similar to us..."**

**G1: There were not many similar things, there were teachers. Again, it went a little person-based.**

**G2: So I added the people we met, for example.**

**A: So, were there any CSOs that you left out when you invited them in the field of education?**

**G1: There was, but for example, we did not think about it and asked not to call. Of course there were CSOs that we didn't think of."**

Education CSO



**"A: Are there any CSOs that work in the field but you leave out when you invite them?"**

**G: Of course there are.**

**A: What was your reason for not inviting these CSOs?**

**G: They may have been forgotten, somehow not considered, because we were not in contact at that moment. Although we work in the field, it may be because we are not working together and not collaborating because we are not in the same perspective, as I mentioned before."**


Children CSO

As observed in the interviews, CSOs working in the field but not working with the same perspective may not be remembered by name. In the invitations, the priorities are the ones with whom collaboration was established and the donators, with whom the aim of continuing the existing collaboration is at the forefront.



**"G: We mostly invited CSOs with whom we collaborate and contact in the field. We also invite funders. Especially if that project or event had had a support from them somewhere. For them to see the work in the field. We can say that there are two groups.**

Children's CSO




***“That is to say, we sent an invitation to CSOs with which we have worked together before. We sent an invitation to CSOs that we didn’t have the chance to do business with before, but whom we thought are doing good work, and whose work we appreciate, and also to CSOs we want to meet.***

***A: Were there any CSOs working in the field of disability, disability rights, but who you left out when you invited them?***

***G: We do not have a CSO that we deliberately exclude, we may only not know them somehow, but other than that, we do not have any concerns about not inviting a CSO with the certain views.”***

Children’s CSO

There is an introverted environment among invitations to inter-CSO events. CSOs that are not among these networks are excluded, ignored, and not addressed.




***“A: So what are the common features of the organizations you invite?***

***G: They’re mostly women’s organizations working in the field of violence.***

***A: Are there any CSOs you leave out, or which you prefer not to invite?***

***G: If it’s on the closed list, we invite it. The others didn’t even get in there anyway. So there is no need to communicate to tell them not to come.”***

Women’s CSO



***“A: Were there any CSOs working in this field that you excluded from inviting?***

***G: Of course there were, but as we said, we made an invitation to the event through friendship. As we held this as a dinner organization, we did not invite CSOs we did not know. No particular reason.”***

Urban CSO



**"Because our iftar was our first external launch. We opened up, we were seen, and it was very important for us to get some more ideas on what to do. That is why we did not invite those who were close to us in the means of opinion and talked about how to continue our work. They were not actually invited as they were among the CSOs we could collaborate with later."**

Women/Gender CSO

There are some exceptions to being in its own "neighborhood". Conflict among peers is usually about the way they do business.



**"G: Honestly, we have not been good with (...) for a few years, so we do not invite them to anything. Likewise, they are too."**

**A: What was the reason you chose not to invite these CSOs?**

**G: (Laughs) Let me say it was an issue with a research."**

Women/Gender CSO



**"G: (Evaluates education CSO...) 9 (gives reputation points), we worked with them a lot ... Then we quarreled."**

**A: Wouldn't you work again then?**

**G: We don't work, we work if they want to. (...) So we don't work with them. (...) We closed our doors, but if they want to open the doors, we would sit down and talk about how to open them. (...) It's not that easy."**

Children CSO

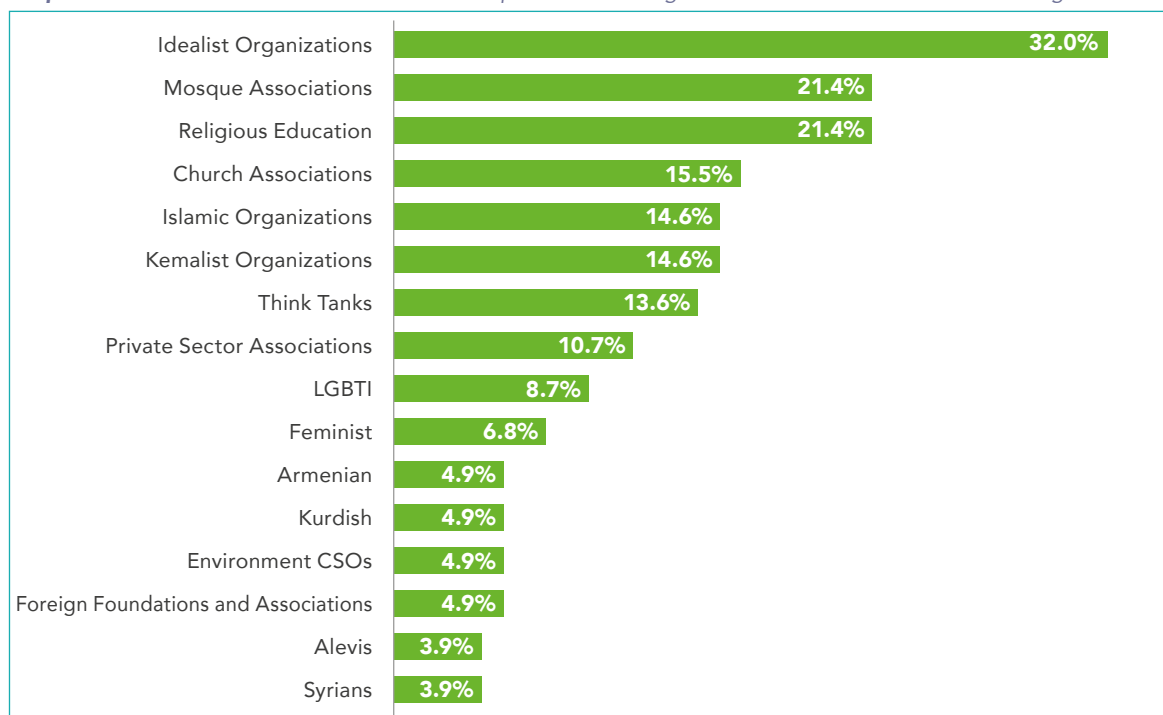
On the other hand, there are CSOs that tend to invite the ones who are not alike, but there are very few examples.



**"Especially, there are no CSOs working in the field of women (labor) that we did not invite. In particular, we are trying to send invitations to them. If we take the example of trade unions, the political differences are more obvious there. If we invite DİSK to KESK, we also invite Hak-İş. Since some of our activities specifically targeted the public, there have been CSOs from the public and more pro-government unions."**

Women/Gender CSO

**Graph 4.** With Which CSOs Would You Not Participate In A Meeting If You Are Invited to the Same Meeting?



CSO representatives were also asked whether there are certain groups or social segments that they would not prefer to come together as an organization. CSO representatives indicate some identities while representing different social segments in Turkey. For 102 CSOs, the rate of those who stated that they would not participate in the same meeting with these groups is given in Graph 4.

When asked about other CSOs that CSOs would not prefer to attend together when invited to the same meeting, more than one third of them stated that they would not prefer to be in the meeting with idealist organizations. However, 21% of CSOs do not prefer to attend the same meeting with religious and belief-themed organizations such as mosque associations and religious education organizations, 15% do not prefer to attend the same meeting with church associations and Islamic organizations. The rate of those who said they would not prefer to come together with Kemalistic organizations and Islamic organizations is similar: 14.6%. CSOs that others do not prefer to attend the same meeting at relatively lower rates are LGBTI + with 9% and feminist associations with 7%, Armenian

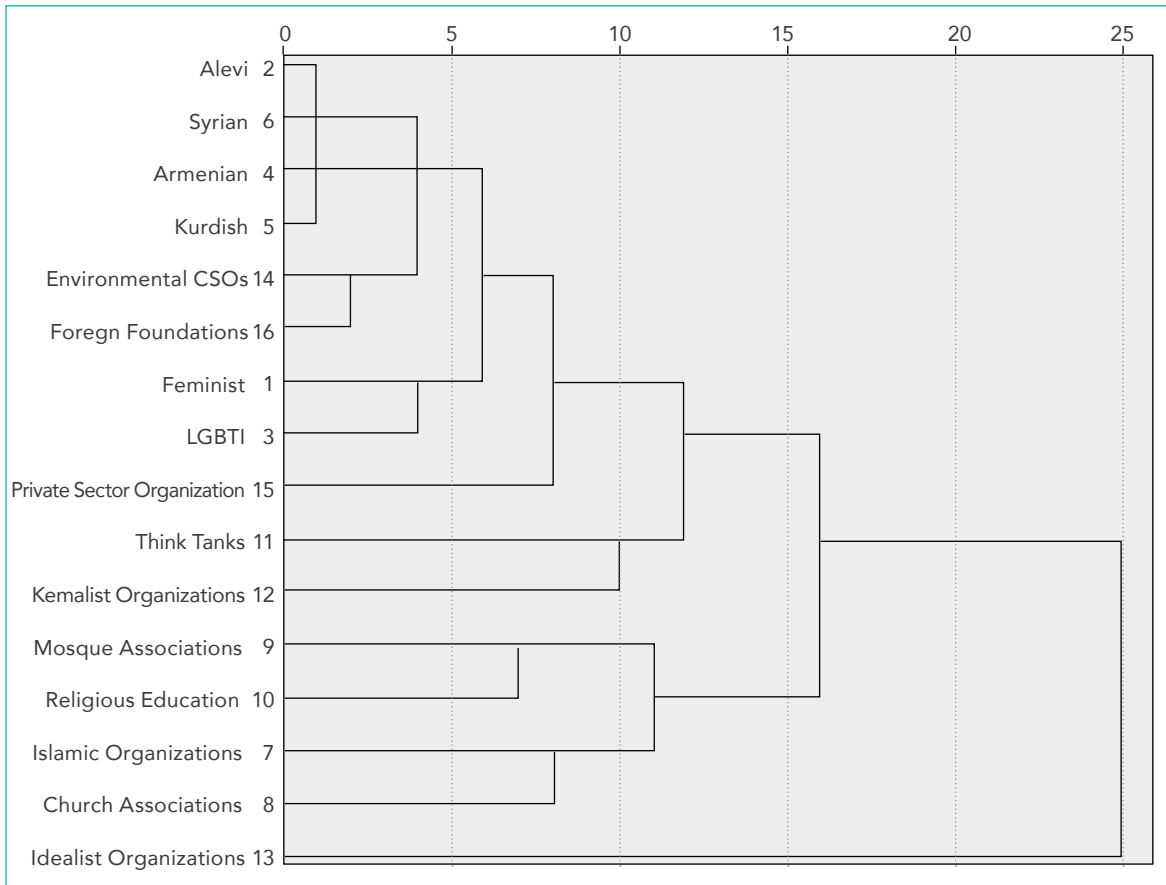
organizations with 5%, Kurdish-themed organizations and environmental organizations and foreign foundations and associations, and Alevi and Syrian-themed organizations with 4%. (See Graph 4).

In the quantitative analysis, more than one statistical method was used to elaborate the CSOs' approach to contact with different identities and segments. First of all, cluster analysis, which is a multivariate statistical analysis technique that allows the organization of information to group the identity and segments that CSO representatives avoid contact with, and which is used to measure individuals or items by grouping them according to their similarities. Similarities and relationships between different variables were presented in a tree diagram-like visual called dendrogram with the analysis method, which is used to reduce a large number of variables to fewer clusters by organizing the relationships and similarities between them. In the dendrogram in Diagram 13, where the findings of the cluster analysis are included, the closer the items are to the vertical Y axis, the more similar trends are with the associated items.





**Diagram 13.** Different Identities that CSOs are hesitant to come together (Cluster Analysis - Dendrogram)



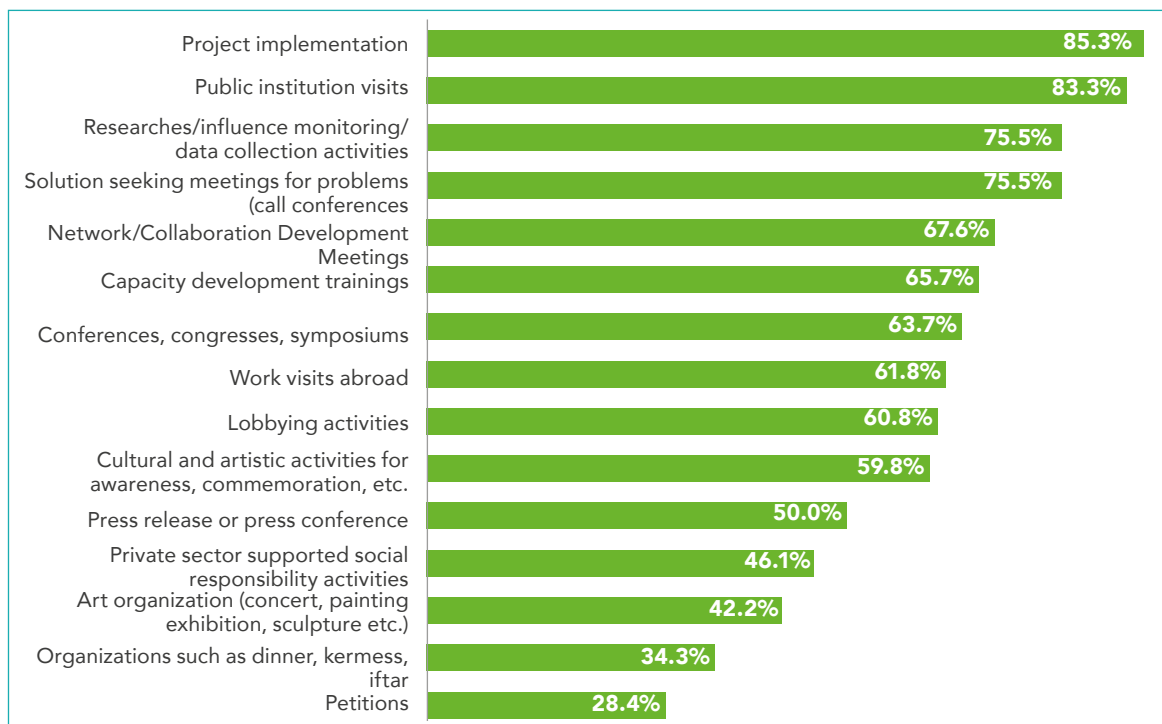
According to the cluster analysis, organizations and social groups that are not preferred to be attended to the same meeting as an organization are grouped in 3 clusters. These can be interpreted as (1) Secular cluster, (2) Religion-based organizations and (3) idealistic organizations grouped in 5 sub-clusters.

There is an identity-based categorization in the first cluster. The preference for or not to come together with Alevi, Kurdish, Syrian and Armenian organizations is similar. Environmental organizations and foreign organizations are added to this identity-based cluster. The approach to gender-based working, women’s and LGBTI + organizations is also similar. This cluster is articulated into a cluster of identity-based and foreign organizations. Private sector organizations are also seen as a single category tied to these 3 sub-clusters.

The approach to think tanks and Kemalist organizations displays a similar portrait and is located at the periphery of this secular cluster. While the approach to mosque associations and to CSOs working on religious education is similar, the attitude towards church associations with the preference not to come together with Islamic organizations is also similar. Together, these organizations form a cluster of organizations based on religion and belief. Idealistic organizations differ from all these categories and, as can be seen in Graph 4, they are seen as entities where 1 in 3 CSOs would not prefer to come together.

When the motivation for participating in the same meeting with different CSOs is examined by CSO category, it is seen that almost all CSO categories do not prefer to be in the same meeting with the most nationalist organizations.

**Graph 5. Activity Types**



### 1.4.3. Current Status of Collaborations

In this section, the criteria for CSOs to collaborate with other CSOs and for inviting them to their activities, social segments that they would refrain from attending the meeting together, and activities where they come together with other CSOs were discussed. If a general evaluation is made for the findings, it would not be wrong to say that the meetings and contacts between CSOs are mostly composed of collaborations of those who are alike. The areas where dialogue and contacts are established are limited to the field of activity and to the study subjects of CSOs, and in the dichotomies mentioned in the first part of the study, this limit becomes narrower depending on where they see themselves as an establishment in these scales.

Last year's CSO activities mostly included project implementation, public institution visits, researches, call conferences and capacity building activities. Most common in CSOs with disabilities and women, following public sector

visits, human rights, and humanitarian CSOs. Private sector participation is highest in the civil society / think-tank category and lowest in children-focused CSOs.

The number of CSOs that they got together through the activities of the CSOs last year was considered as an indicator of the experience of working together among CSOs. In this context, CSO representatives were asked about the activities of CSOs last year and how many CSOs participated in these activities or how many CSOs these activities were held with.

Civil society activities with the highest CSO participation, search conferences, workshops, collaboration development meetings. The types with the least number of CSOs among the activities are lobbying activities and private sector supported corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects.

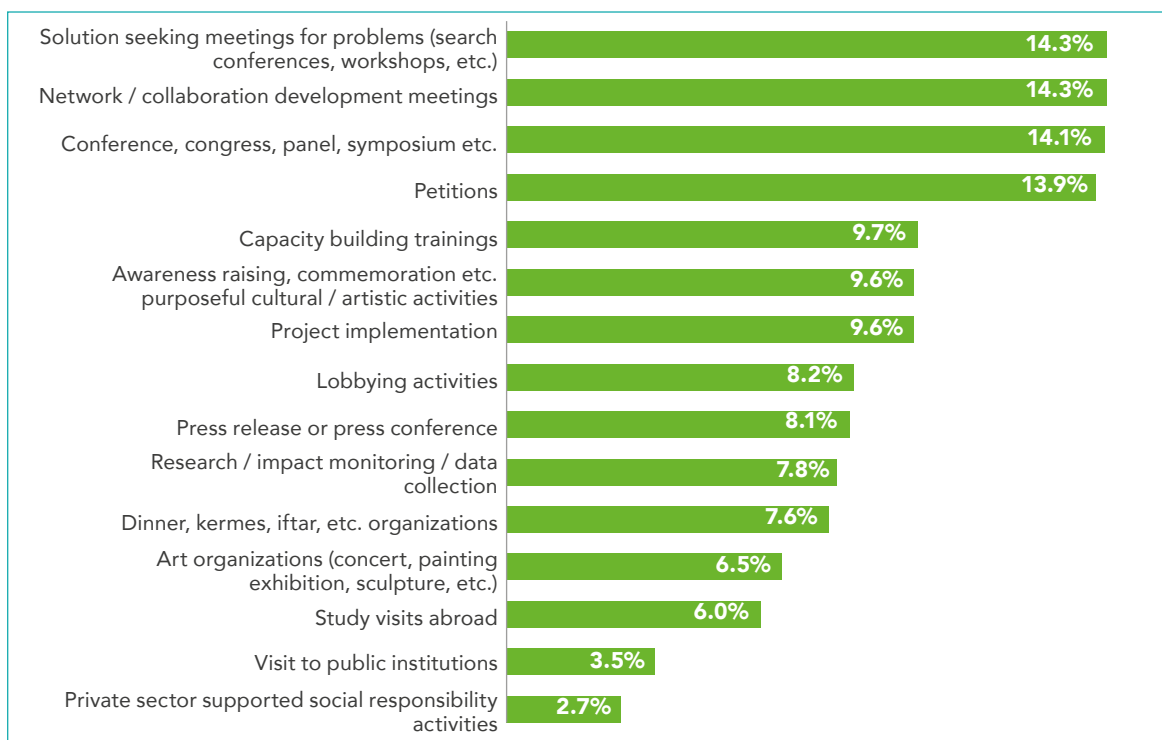
The average number of CSOs participating in the activities of the CSOs last year (based on the average of the declared number of CSOs) is shown in Graph 6.



**Table 5.** Number of CSOs Participating in Activities by Activity Type

	1-5 CSOs	6-10 CSOs	+10 CSOs
Lobbying activities	47.9%	2.1%	25.0%
Private sector supported social responsibility activities	42.1%	2.6%	2.6%
Project implementation	39.0%	15.6%	29.9%
Study visits abroad	38.2%	5.5%	18.2%
Research / impact monitoring / data collection	28.6%	14.3%	21.4%
Press release or press conference	28.3%	10.9%	23.9%
Art organizations (concert, painting exhibition, sculpture, etc.)	28.2%	7.7%	23.1%
Conference, congress, panel, symposium etc.	26.5%	16.2%	48.5%
Capacity building trainings	26.3%	17.5%	33.3%
Dinner, kermes, iftar, etc. organizations	25.0%	12.5%	20.8%
Visit to public institutions	24.7%	5.2%	6.5%
Awareness raising, commemoration etc. purposeful cultural / artistic activities	23.7%	25.4%	30.5%
Petitions	19.0%	14.3%	42.9%
Network / collaboration development meetings	18.3%	11.7%	58.3%
Solution seeking meetings for problems (search conferences, workshops, etc.)	16.2%	21.6%	50.0%

**Graph 6.** Number of Participating CSOs by Activity Type



It is seen that the most common activities in which CSOs come together with other CSOs are activities such as search conferences, network / collaboration development meetings and conferences. Such events are held with the participation of an average of 14 CSOs. On the other hand, visits to public institutions, one of the most frequently held events last year, are carried out on an establishment basis or with 3 CSOs on average. In private sector-supported activities, collaborations consisting of organization-based or, on average, 2 CSOs are observed.

There are scarcely any examples that can be given to one-time partnerships that are not alike, but that come together and fall apart due to the subject matter. The platform and the petition campaign established by women's organizations focusing on the right to alimony can be cited as an example of such a partnership in recent years. However, according to the information provided during the interviews, it is seen that the women CSOs participating in this platform and the campaign are also working with CSOs "close to their neighborhood".



***"For example, when we publish a report, the last one was a poverty alimony report, and we send it to all women's associations, to all CSOs in our network, and we sign petitions. ... does that as well. In other words, we send it to almost all women's associations we know. There is supports of notices or else, but the most common things we do are aid-based, we work together with aid organizations."***

Women's CSO



***"In general, I can say that we are call out to CSOs similar to us. The CSOs that I have defined as an alternative are ... Others are not in our field. In the meantime, we are exposed to many attacks on social media, by people with different views. There were campaigns organized by women's organizations regarding the right to alimony. We got a lot of backlash for supporting them."***

Women's CSO



***“For example, alimony is on the agenda right now. Istanbul contract, Law 6284 as well. Violence too. Or the political representation of women. I guess there will be more action-taking among these issues when we get together. This is not a conflict, but a point of contemplation. For example, how will the text be written, who will write it, what kind of discourse it should be, how social media should be organized.”***

Women's CSO



***“There is nothing specific like project X meetings or participating organizations, but for example, we are currently working on alimony. We created the women's alimony platform. There are many women's organizations in it. We hold regular meetings with them about how to advocate together. For example, we have such an agenda right now in advocacy.”***

Women's CSO

In-theme collaborations and contacts are more than cross-themed collaborations. The areas where inter-thematic collaborations that were established take place in areas such as education, children, and disability areas, which are more transmissible and that are target audiences. On the other hand, environmental organizations cannot imagine on what they will come together with women's organizations. In this respect, initiatives focused on getting to know each other and expressing themselves are important for CSOs. When working with large organizations on partnership, it is observed that there is a problem of trust in terms of visibility in collaborating with CSOs that have not been worked with before. It can be said that large-capacity CSOs close to business world attach importance to being a pioneer in certain themes, and in this respect, they are more distant to give the leadership to other organizations in partnerships and collaborations. Coming together on issues that are realized with fund support and require collaboration between CSOs are prominent. Although leadership on paper is usual in such studies, partnerships with predetermined division of labor are favored. The main concerns of CSOs in collaboration are about the distribution of tasks before collaboration and drawing the boundaries of the division of labor.

# 1.5. OPINIONS OF CSOS ON FUNDING SOURCES AND THEIR FUNDING PREFERENCES

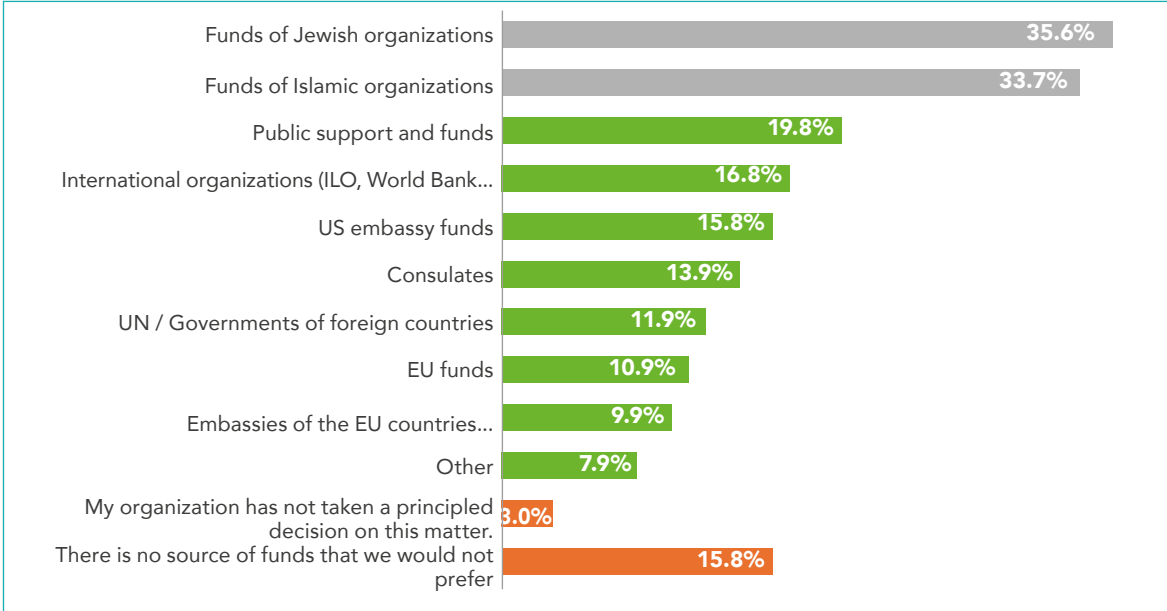
Within the scope of the research, questions were asked about the approaches of CSOs to funding sources as organizations. Participants were asked about a list of different funding sources, and the focus was on which of these funding sources they would not prefer.

While organizations representing ethnic / religious identities stand out among the sources for which CSOs do not want to receive funding, it is observed that approaches to international funds are more positive. 35.6% of CSOs prefer not to receive funds from Jewish organizations and 33.7% from Islamic organizations, while 20% of CSOs prefer not to receive funds from public support / funds, 17% from international organizations such as the

ILO, the World Bank, and 16% of CSOs prefer not to receive fund from the United States. While monitoring the embassy funds, the ratio of CSOs stating that there is no source of funds that would not be preferred is 16%. Consulates are preferred by CSOs at a rate of 14%, governments of UN / foreign countries at a rate of 12%, EU funds at a rate of 11% and European Union funds at a rate of 10%. Stating that there is no source of funds that 15.8% of CSOs would not prefer, only 3% of them state that their organizations have a principled decision to receive funds from.

According to qualitative findings, the worldview is one of the determinants of the approach to funding sources. CSO representatives state that religious organizations will not fund them due to differences in world views and fields of work, and that their organizations will not want to receive funds from organizations representing distant religious views.

**Graph 7.** Organizations That Are Preferred to Receive Funding From





**"A: Funds of Jewish organizations?**

**G: No. But the Islamic funds may be okay to us due to this: After all, we are a Muslim country, of course there may be those among us who have different preferences, religions, and world views. We respect them, but when we talk about Jewish organizations, there are too many claims assigned to them today, so we don't want to get into such a thing. If you were to say Christian organizations instead of Jewish ones, I would say the same things. Islam is after all a very serious reality of this country's society. We do not want to do this with an organization that puts its religion in the foreground, such as Christianity or Judaism. Institutions that want to bring themselves to the forefront in this field in the Islamic sense are also would be our last choice, but we think that it will not be very healthy to collaborate with an association or a CSO based on Judaism or Christianity.**

**A: For others, if they have the same view as you, do you say?**

**G: Yes, you've mentioned the USA, you counted other European countries. We do not discriminate between Jews or Christians in any of these, but if the issue is approached on a religious basis, of course we are not doing a Judaism or Christian business. Its not the same with Islam, but because Islam is a reality of this country and the religious belief of a large part of its society, our opinion is in this direction. If there will be a collaboration at this point in terms of urbanism rather than ideological or religious encirclement, this can happen."**

Urban CSO



**"A: Islamic organizations funds?**

**G: I mean... Well, frankly, I do not know of a merit-based resource among those funds other than their own world views. And they will not give because we are not of their world view. They don't have such a line and perspective."**

Education CSO



**"A: World Bank?**

**G: No. I wouldn't accept funds from the World Bank.**

**A: Why?**

**G: Business card problem. In other words, they do more sectoral work, the World Bank etc. They don't work in our way. That's why they're distant to us. Or investment banks etc. we don't get funding from them either. "**

Think Tank

## 1.6. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE

It is seen that non-category relations are limited and difficult to agree on within the category. CSO representatives were asked what issues they had difficulty resolving and discussions were prolonged when they considered their own thematic areas of activity. CSOs in the categories of disability, women and education do not see their thematic area as a whole. The issues that they find controversial stand out as those that are directly related to their specific target audience or to their activities. For example, disability CSOs state that the issues on which discussions are prolonged are related to the details of the disability area in their focus.

*"In other words, the biggest discussion was on discrimination. Yes, we do something, we try to do it, but I would say it is wrong to be just sign language oriented. I think the discussion was prolonged there. We also work on sign language, but the ones who only work on sign language, our problems are waiting to be solved, but it is not solved either. I would say let's collaborate together, make a file, make a report, find the problems in the hearing aid and do a study that will cover them. I would say that first."*

Disability CSO

*"I think autism is one of the most controversial issues in our field. In other words, autism in our field starts from infancy, it is a process until death. One of the most stuck points is that the founders of CSOs we sit at the table are usually mothers and fathers. Whatever the age of their children, mothers and fathers can consider the problem of that period as the top priority, ie they cannot look at the field in a holistic way. Adolescence period can be a very important problem if the child is adolescent, and if the child is diagnosed early, accessing primary education can be a very important problem. That is why we think of this as a process from infancy to care, from old age, we do not intend to divide and shatter it, but of course, the primary concern of our foundation is early diagnosis and education, so we try to produce something and speak about it."*

Disability CSO

*"The most controversial systems in our field, namely the fact that people with Down Syndrome live in a separate living village when they get older, or only study in schools where disabled people attend or attend special education classes are the issues that we cannot agree on."*

Disability CSO





CSOs working in the field of education also define controversial issues with topics such as educational content and scholarship selection, which are also at their focus.

Issues in which discussions are prolonged in the field of children are mostly seen as the child approach and approach to the child.



***"I will say it can be about content. (...) There are also teacher-child relationships. There is also a child-family relationship. In the content part, the discussions may be prolonged on the extent to which we will consider the family-child relationship or what kind of study we can do. Or there are a lot of alternative education models to be implemented. I think that the discussion may be prolonged on whether we should apply one of these models, should we develop something by taking these models into consideration, or should we develop a template or not."***

Education CSO




***"I think the approach to the child is as follows... Since the issue of children is also on everybody's own personal agenda, it is difficult for people to leave their perspectives aside. So, for example, the balances such as how much the child will be left alone or how much initiative the child will be given, setting or not setting limits, I think, is different everywhere. We also talk about child protection, child safety, and when we can or cannot touch the child as a civil society worker in our environment. A very basic thing about child safety can sometimes cause long discussions."***

Children's CSO




***"What is the most controversial issue in our field? So maybe there may be conflict about the criteria based on scholarship selection. While some foundations think that the socio-political views of the students are important, we of course do care, but since we cannot know the intentions of the people, we take our own criteria into account, that is, we choose students who are successful and have no financial means."***

Education CSO



***"I think the perspective of some civil society organizations are still a bit old fashioned on child perception. As I said there are also aid-based structures, aid-based structures can have a perspective that has not gone beyond being a donator and providing financial aid. Consequently, seeing the child as a constantly needy party, that is, of course, they somehow are, but on the other hand, the child is an individual who has strong resources and needs the development of those resources. I think we probably argue the most about child perception."***

Children's CSO



***"Actually, I always say this. Previously, we even had an idea to establish this as a platform, as a network, but that dialogue cannot be provided mutually in the process. Because civil society is definitely not a world of differences. That's why everyone's personal interests come to the fore, and the mission and visions are really different. For almost all institutions working in this field, the issues that we are very sensitive to us can be extremely ordinary issues. For example, using photographs of children. We train volunteers. We make them participate. That is why we can never actually reconcile because the vision and mission are not common."***

Children's CSO



There are also discussions in the field of children about establishing public relations. Unlike other thematic categories, how the relations with public institutions and the state should be regulated is seen among the issues that prolonged the discussions among CSOs working in the field of children.



***"I suppose it's about working with the state. The trouble with working with state tools and state organizations would not go away, some would or wouldn't want to work. So it is difficult to work with the state itself. We can say public."***

Children's CSO



***"Is the biological bond primarily and essential? This is our main subject. We discuss this with various levels of the state, with structures such as the Ministry of National Education, Health, Justice, Family, related universities, institutions, and organizations, and with the ombudsmans."***

Children's CSO

In the field of women and gender, consensus seems difficult within the scope of feminism debates. In particular, fundamental debates such as trans rights and the position of men are seen as issues that tend to prolong.




***"The most controversial issue in women's work is the position of men. In other words, some of them are male hostile, in other words, they are completely gender-focused, others say there is a system and there are men and women as stakeholders of the system. In other words, while some are moving through the system, through the role, some of them overemphasize gender and prolong these discussions. This is the first field. Also, the relationship between violence and poverty prolongs many discussions. Because some think that every man has the potential to inflict violence on every woman and that this is an issue between men and women. Some argue that even if the violent practitioner is male, it is necessary to see poverty and conservatism as the crisis of not being able to get out of the field of violence, this is prolonged debate."***

Gender / Women's CSO



***“We can say trans exclusionary radical feminism and transphobia. In fact, the summary of this is transphobia. The issue of transphobia is a subject that can be very controversial and will require very long and difficult meetings.”***


Gender / Women’s CSO



***“The group that we will discuss the most about this is again radical feminists. We separate the types of violence. Then we differ certain behaviors and rates between types of violence. We talk about the patterns of behavior that underlie this, such as gender equality, social learning, etc. Sometimes if you work in the field of women, there is something people want to hear, rightly, they want the issue to remain in the patriarchal order somehow. But if you say that psychological violence is the closest violence that both women and men perpetrate to each other, you can drive women’s associations mad here. But on the other hand, when you say that research shows us this, there is a patriarchy that puts the research aside and underlies all these in Turkey. Okay, we admit it, but practice sometimes causes misunderstanding or repeatedly stating your intention ...”***


Gender / Women’s CSO

Humanitarian aid and refugee categories perceive the field as a whole and define the theoretical framework more clearly. Collaboration in the field of humanitarian aid and planning and carrying out aid activities is also expressed as a controversial issue.



***“The most controversial issue is citizenship, second is returns, third is rights. The hardest issue would be citizenship, medium level repatriation, and finally refugee rights. If we had refugee rights, we would agree more easily, we would agree more difficult on citizenship.”***

Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO



***“Continuity of studies. Since we work on a project basis, especially organizations working in the field of refugees do not have a guarantee of continuity after the project is over, so the issues discussed are always on the disadvantages of project-based work.”***

Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO



***“Collaboration... Planning and conducting humanitarian aid activities. These are the issues that require coordination between CSOs. Recently, a joint campaign was launched in Sudan, but again, I think it is just something about the joint campaign of all institutions. I do not see much theoretical discussion in Turkey about humanitarian aid mechanism or humanitarian principles. We usually witness this in the West. In other words, the issue can be extended seriously with regard to the humanitarian principles and mechanism rather than the direction of the work in the field. There is more collaboration in Turkey. ”***

Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO

On the urban theme, discussions are thought to be prolonged on theoretical issues that are the subject of urban studies, and these controversial areas are diversified such as participation, governance, impact, and infrastructure regulations.



***“Governance and participation. Of course, when we want to get together at this point, what everyone will say is the representation of a few groups or a few people, but we think that is not the case. We saw this when we got down on the field, in our work with children. It is necessary to be able to touch everyone. Therefore, in order to be able to say a word about the city, it is necessary to get the opinion of every part of the society that we target. As far as possible, of course, otherwise it is not possible to reach everyone, but we think it is very unhealthy to put ideas about the city over two percent and three percent. At this point we can argue.”***

Urban CSO



***“Hmm... the most controversial issue is infrastructure. In other words, the city, the city and the infrastructure, the subject that has not come to an end and is much discussed is definitely infrastructure. Lack of opportunities, lack of infrastructure, I think this is the most prolonged issue. ”***

Urban CSO

Civil society and think tanks are influenced by political debates, and discussions on the Kurdish issue, definition of civil society, worldview and values are emphasized.

***“The most controversial issues that we have not discussed and resolved for years are what civil society is, how civil society can be taken forward, how it can develop, and how its capacity can be increased. I’m not saying these in a bad way. These are the most controversial issues about what needs prioritization is, what organization can serve and how.”***

Civil Society / Think Tank

***“For example, whether it is the issue of the Kurdish issue, I think whether it will be a work that we will discuss with the civil society organizations we work in the same field in different places or the subject will be extended. In other words, the issue of the Kurdish issue can be extended.”***

Civil Society / Think Tank

Environmental CSOs have a different discussion area in terms of their focus, also with the effect of the climate crisis. Relations with the public and private sectors are among the most controversial issues of the environmental theme.

***“For example, the current debate is about the thing... These are not the protracted discussions, but whether it is meaningful to do something with the government or not is on the agenda. Because we cannot get anywhere by working with them, but there is a debate that we can only get results from studies that are not included.”***

Environmental CSO

***“Whether to be close to politics or not to be close to the private sector is a hot topic. We differentiate here mostly.”***

Environmental CSO



Other debates between environmental CSOs are the priority problem areas related to the environment, issues related to the positioning of environmental issues such as discourse and strategy.



***“The most discussed issues may be the activities to be carried out to identify and protect protected areas.”***

Environmental CSO



***“We’ve come together many times around a specific problem. I will call it climate. It would be difficult to make a joint decision on climate.”***

Environmental CSO



***“Perhaps the language of discourse is something to be agreed upon, obviously in the method. Who should we target part though, they may all lead to similar things though. This kind of thing, I guess. There may be discussions about who should we get partners, with whom we should establish partnership.”***

Environmental CSO



***“The argument that we are all guilty about climate is widely voiced. For this argument, for example, we are all guilty and we are all responsible. We have serious objections to this, we are not all guilty and not all responsible. As 6 and a half billion people, we are not responsible. Serious discussions about clarifying those responsible are taking place within the movement. It is likely to be discussed when we sit down at the table.”***

Environmental CSO

The representatives of civil society organizations were asked separately about the issues that they found impossible to be resolved in the short term in their field of activity and the issues that they found difficult to be resolved. The responses given were grouped thematically and shared in Table 6.

**Table 6.** Controversial Areas According to Thematic Categories

	Environment	Children	Urban	Civil Society	
<b>Controversial Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relations with the public</li> <li>Building discourse and strategy</li> <li>Priority environmental problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach to the child and perception of the child</li> <li>Relations with the public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Political debates (Kurdish issue, Alevism, faith-based values etc.)</li> </ul>	
<b>Issues that can be resolved in the short term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycling</li> <li>Food safety</li> <li>Measures and policies that can be taken by the municipality and the public with the climate crisis;</li> <li>Implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and commitments</li> <li>Plastic pollution</li> <li>Zero waste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements in the child protection system</li> <li>Improving the conditions of children in the judicial process, improving the work laws and regulations in a feasible manner</li> <li>Child participation</li> <li>Child safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governance and participation</li> <li>Local governments and CSO dialogue</li> <li>Zero waste</li> <li>Access of the disabled to the city</li> <li>Woman's access to bicycle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public-CSO collaboration with Local Authorities</li> </ul>	
<b>Unsolvable Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water crisis</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Public view of CSOs</li> <li>Climate crisis</li> <li>Energy conversion: renunciation of fossil, adaptation to renewable energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal solutions for child neglect and abuse</li> <li>Early marriages</li> <li>Peer bullying</li> <li>Refugee children and temporary protection</li> <li>Improving the conditions of children in the judicial process, improving the work laws and regulations in a feasible manner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bicycle friendly cities</li> <li>Infrastructure problems such as transportation</li> <li>Problems in the fields of environment and ecology</li> <li>Housing policies and urban transformation</li> <li>The impact of the climate crisis on cities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social peace and the Kurdish issue</li> <li>Regional inequalities</li> </ul>	





	Disability	Education	Humanitarian Aid/ Refugees	Women	Human Rights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solutions for target audience problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity, method, content</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability</li> <li>Coordination</li> <li>Scope of refugee rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical debates (radical feminism, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition of rights and freedoms</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accessibility</li> <li>Database study for needs assessment</li> <li>Collaboration between CSOs</li> <li>Inclusive education and anti-discrimination practices</li> <li>Participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preschool education</li> <li>Providing materials and opportunities</li> <li>Equal education right</li> <li>Infrastructure and capacity problems of educational institutions</li> <li>Increase in school attendance rate of girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues related to immigration and refugee rights (due to politics and policy choices)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's participation in politics</li> <li>Increase in women's employment</li> <li>Less harassment</li> <li>Increase in the schooling rate of girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrangements for faith-based rights (status of cemevis, compulsory religious education, etc.)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> <li>Employment</li> <li>Assistance-based approach</li> <li>Social security coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holistic child approach and policies</li> <li>Refugee children's rights</li> <li>Equality of opportunity in education</li> <li>Education in mother tongue / Bilingualism</li> <li>Religion and education</li> <li>Service capacity of public schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social integration</li> <li>Strengthening coordination between institutions</li> <li>Refugees' access to education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender-based domestic roles</li> <li>Early marriages</li> <li>Decrease in femicide, harassment and rape</li> <li>Female poverty</li> <li>Decreasing prejudice against LGBTI + individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detention period of human rights activists</li> <li>Issues related to refugee rights</li> </ul>

## SUMMARY FINDINGS ON THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- It seems that the desire for dialogue of civil society in Turkey has increased compared to previous years. It is said that dialogue will be possible today with categories that are said to be in bold letters that would not be entered into dialogue in the past.
  - However, there is a contradiction between this situation at the discursive level and the actuality. Currently, diverse models of collaboration are seldom encountered.
  - Dialogues take place in short-term and sometimes accidental encounters, from collaborations towards a common goal.
  - Turkey civil society often simply uses a distinction between “what is and isn’t” when defining their thematic areas. Definitions such as “non-advocate”, “politically tied” and “highly engaged in the private sector” are frequently encountered. The contrasts between these definitions describe their field of activity.
  - The dichotomies that CSOs most frequently resort to when defining other actors in their field of activity take place in three ways:
    - Rights-based-aid-based dichotomy:
      - Rights-based dichotomy leads to issue hierarchy. Criticism of “not being an activist” and “taking on what the state should do” is being criticized against organizations that do not work based on rights; These organizations are pushing the lower layers of the hierarchy.
    - Conservatism – secularity dichotomy:
      - Organizations that do not define their own organizations with Islamic values and conservatism do not categorize civil society in terms of conservatism / secularism. However, this is more related to denying the legitimacy of the existence of the category they oppose, rather than the absence of such a dichotomy. Organizations that do not define themselves with conservative and Islamic values do not see organizations that define themselves as conservative in the field of civil society; therefore, he does not define his own areas within the framework of this dichotomy.
    - Biasness – neutrality dichotomy:
      - Biasness - neutrality is often described in terms of proximity to the government, but also speaks of a responsibility according to the state of private sector and utilization of funding sources. CSOs define a category called “project work” and the relationship this category establishes with the funder is seen as bias.
- There is little thematic transition between CSOs in existing collaborations and their tendency to get in touch with organizations that CSOs have not met before. In this respect, there is an in-theme closure in relations between CSOs.





The background is a solid teal color. On the left side, there are several white geometric shapes that resemble stylized arrows or chevrons pointing towards the right. These shapes are layered, with some overlapping others. The largest shape is a long, thin arrow pointing from the top left towards the bottom right. Below it, there are two smaller, more complex shapes that also point towards the right, one above the other.

**2**

**DIALOGUE  
BETWEEN CIVIL  
SOCIETY -  
PUBLIC SECTOR /  
CIVIL SOCIETY -  
POLITICAL PARTIES**

# DIALOGUE BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY - PUBLIC SECTOR / CIVIL SOCIETY - POLITICAL PARTIES

The second part focused on the contacts of civil society organizations with the public sector and political parties. In this context, the current relations of CSOs with public institutions, local administrations and political parties and the perceptions of CSO representatives were discussed.

It is observed that the contact of civil society organizations with the public sector is mostly with municipalities, ministries and governorships and district governorships (See Table 7).

**Table 7.** Institutions with which CSOs have Direct / Indirect Relations

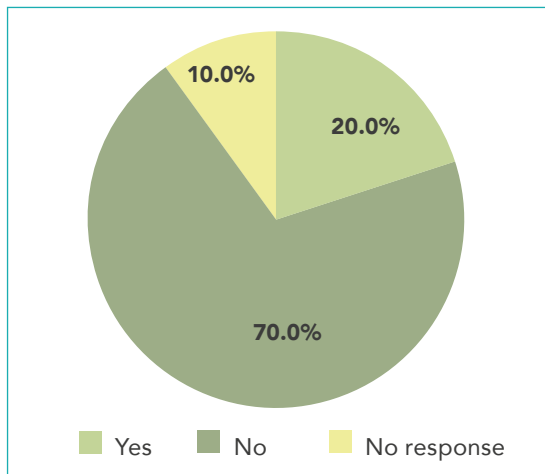
	Total
Municipalities	74.5%
Ministries (Labor, Education, Health...)	73.5%
Governorships	65.7%
District Governorships	64.7%
Immigration Department	56.9%
Red Crescent	55.9%
Parliamentary commissions	54.9%
Presidency	53.9%
AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency)	50.0%
Refugee Camps	47.1%
Ombudsman Offices	44.1%

When asked which institutions CSOs have direct or indirect relations with, municipalities and ministries are the institutions that CSOs have the most contact with, with an average of 74%. The ratio of relations with ministries such as the ministry of study, education and health is followed by the municipalities with 73.5%. Approximately 66% of the CSOs state that they have an indirect relationship with governorships, 65% with district governorships, 57% with the migration administration, 56% with the Red Crescent, 55% with parliamentary commissions, 54% with the presidency, half with AFAD directly. Refugee camps and ombudsman offices are the institutions with which CSOs have the least direct or indirect contact with 47% and 44% respectively.

CSO representatives were asked whether there are any public institution(s) whose logo they would not want to be side by side (See Graph 8).



**Graph 8.** Is There A Public Organization That You Would Not Want Your Logo To Be Side By Side With?



70% of the CSOs state that the logos belonging to their organizations can come side by side with public institutions, and that there is no public institution that they do not want their logos to come side by side. 20% of them state that there are public institutions that they do not want their logos to be visibly used together. 10% of CSOs prefer not to answer this question.

CSO representatives were asked how their institutions approach to collaboration with the public institutions on the given list. Each public institution was asked to give points between 1-5 so that 1 would be “we definitely do not work with”, and 5 would be “we definitely want to work with”. According to this, apart from the human rights and humanitarian aid CSOs where conservative CSOs are the most involved, the institutions that are considered the most remote to work for CSOs, are the Red Crescent and Presidency. Disability CSOs are the category that most welcomes working with public and local institutions. It appears that human rights CSOs are also open to partnerships.

**Table 8.** Approach of CSOs to Working with Institutions Directly or Indirectly (Over 5)

	Average
Municipalities	4.64
Ministries	4.40
Parliamentary commissions	4.38
Governorships	4.29
District Governorships	4.25
Immigration Department	4.14
Refugee Camps	4.01
AFAD	3.90
Ombudsman Offices	3.85
Red Crescent	3.84
Presidency	3.74

Regarding the approach of CSOs to establishing direct or indirect relations with institutions, again, their approach towards establishing relations with municipalities has the most positive value compared to other institutions. While this is followed by governorships, district governorships, immigration administration, refugee camps, there is a more neutral approach to working directly or indirectly with AFAD, ombudsman offices, the Red Crescent and the Presidency compared to other institutions.

When comparing the existing relations and relationship building approaches of CSOs, who generally have a positive approach to establishing relations with all institutions, it is seen that establishing relations with the parliamentary committees is considered positive, and the existing relations are less than other institutions. (See Table 8).

An extension of the thematic closure between CSOs is observed in relations with public institutions. CSO representatives do not have any imagination about how joint works with public institutions that they think are not

working in the field of activity can be possible. For example, women CSOs do not know how to work with the Immigration Administration, and Environmental CSOs with AFAD.

**"A: How would you look at working with the Immigration Service?"**

**G: We don't work. Because it's not our topic. Sometimes the mails come, but no. "**  
Women / Gender CSO

**"We do not work with AFAD. Our working areas are not very suitable. I know it is a very professional organization. (...) These are public institutions and they have a very bureaucratic organized structure. They are not organizations with very good qualifications for our way of working or what we want to do. "**

Environmental CSO

**"A: Immigration Administration?"**

**G:.... Frankly, we have nothing to produce a policy on the refugee issue. We do not know much about the subject, except for general information. However, one of the issues expected with the climate crisis is that migration will increase in the long term. Therefore, we may need to develop long-term collaborations even if not now. That's why I'll say 3.**

**A: AFAD?**

**G: Disaster issue is something that is very in contact with the climate crisis. I will say 3 again. Since these are public institutions on the one hand, I am trying to find a middle ground. "**

Environmental CSO

**"A: Refugee camps?"**

**G: It is not our field at all, but if there was a refugee child receiving treatment, I think 5.**  
Children's CSO





**Graph 9.** Participation Rates of CSOs in Meetings or Activities of Formations as an Organization



***“Actually I can say 3 because I cannot see at what point we will work with the Red Crescent. I don’t say we won’t work, but I don’t know how we will come together thematically.”***  
Environmental CSO

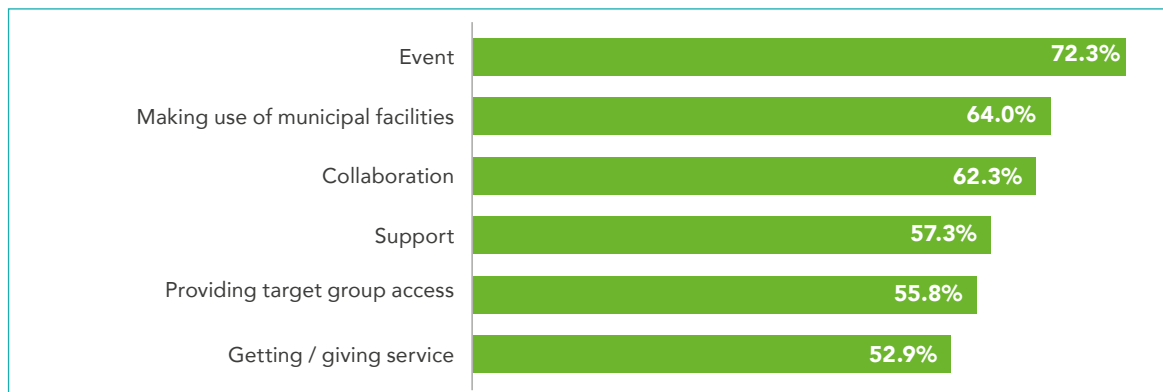
When asked which meetings or which organizations participate in their activities as organizations, approximately 70% of the CSOs state that they attend the meetings with public and private sector organizations. Disability CSOs are the most active category in participating in such meetings.

69% of the interviewed CSOs state that they mostly attend planning or action plan meetings of public institutions. This is followed by private sector or companies

with 68%, municipal consultation meetings with 64%, city council meetings with 59%, consultation meetings with UN units with 57% and ministerial consultation meetings with 54%. While 39% held with the municipal council, 35% held for the meeting of the law in the assembly and 33% held with the provincial / district councils, the rate was relatively low, while 28% were held with parliamentary commission meetings and 27% with the relevant boards of the Presidency, are the interviews / meetings / activities held appear as the least frequent meetings / activities by CSOs (See Graph 9).

CSOs state that they are open to work with municipalities. The leading reasons for contact with local authorities are regarding events and use of municipal facilities.

**Graph 10.** Issues on which CSOs Contact with Local Governments in the Region

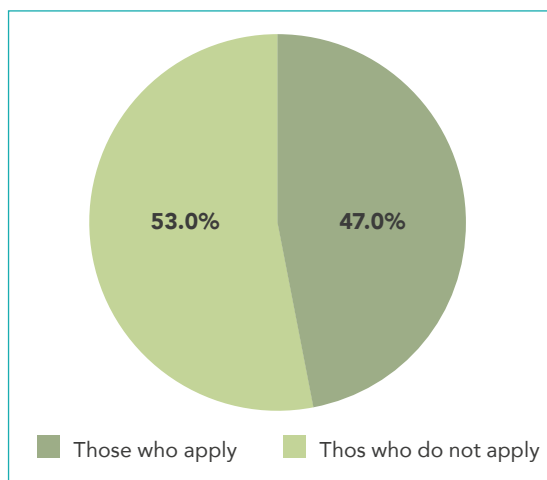


Based on the question of the level of communication of the CSOs with local governments in their region, when asked about which issues they have contacts with local governments, with a balanced distribution, CSOs state that they mostly contact local governments through organizing events with 72%. Establishing collaboration and making use of municipal facilities are 64% and 62%, respectively, as the issues contacted with local governments after the event. This is followed by support with 57%, providing access to the target group with 56% and getting / providing services with 53%.

When CSOs were asked whether the local administrators in their region have consulted their views on any decision, 52 CSOs stated that local administrators applied to them with a rate of 53%; 50 CSOs state that 47% of the local administrators in their region do not apply to them regarding any decision.

Local administrations that refer to the views of CSOs in their region are mostly mayors with 35%. This is followed by the provincial / district directorates of ministries with 21%, city council members with 19% and district governors with 18%.

**Graph 11.** Rates of Local Authorities That Consult To CSO Views

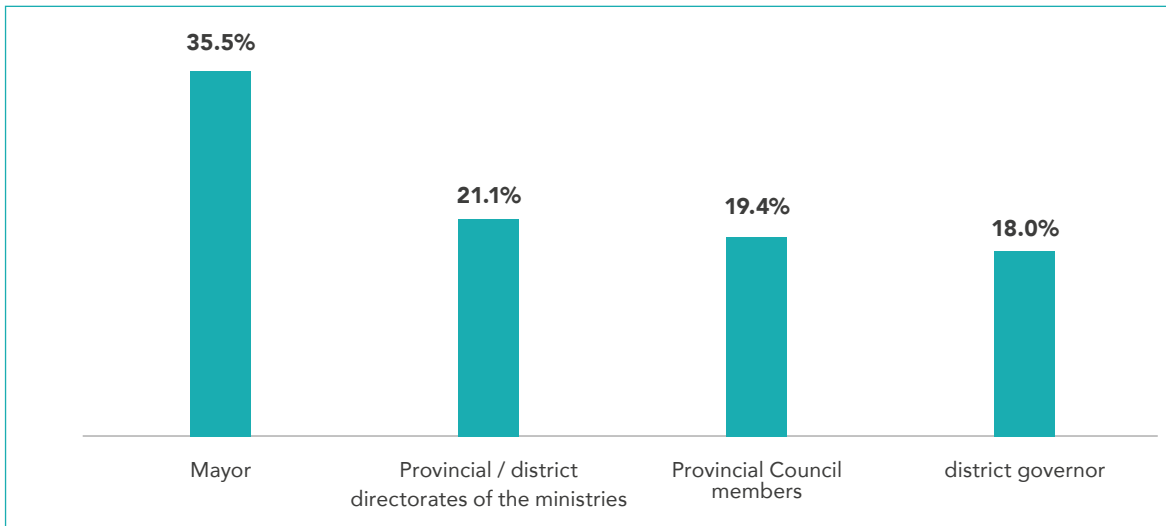


The research also focused on the contact of civil society organizations with political parties. In this context, the current relations of CSOs with political parties and perceptions of CSO representatives towards relations with political parties were discussed. In this context, CSO representatives were asked about their current contacts with political parties, the topics of these contacts, their approach to collaboration and their openness to dialogue.

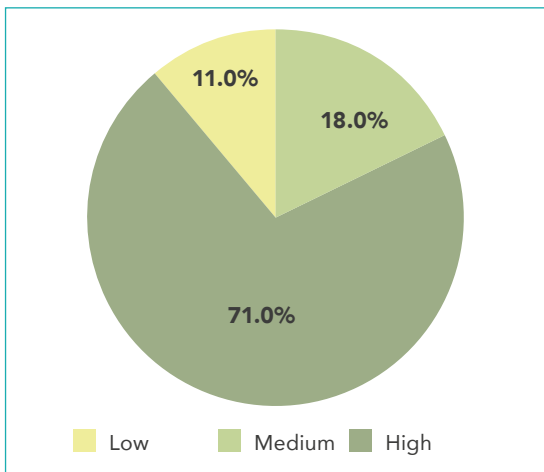
It can be said that civil society organizations are generally open to dialogue with political parties. While more than 70% of CSOs state that they are open to dialogue with political parties, approximately 11% of them state that they are closed to dialogue.



**Graph 12.** Local Government Units Consulting CSOs' Opinions



**Graph 13.** Being Open to Dialogue with Political Parties for CSOs



Disability organizations and environmental organizations are the organizations that express their communication with political parties the most. While environmental CSOs aim to put specific demands on the agenda of the parliament, disability organizations state that they convey their demands to politicians through invitations / visits.

There are two basic practices in dialogue with political parties. The first is to work directly with political parties. For example, a women's organization that works to increase women's representation in politics is in direct

contact with political parties and describes this communication as an overlapping activity for its own establishment. The second practice is to stay in dialogue to put the organization's own practice on the political agenda. Advocacy organizations such as environmental CSOs, children's CSOs can be in dialogue with political parties in order to influence policy-making processes on specific issues.

Relations with political parties are often not viewed as legitimate. The basic practice establishing legitimacy is not "one political party" but staying in dialogue with "all political parties" and trying to reach all of them. The organizations that state that they establish relations / dialogue express their collaboration with the note "Our door is open to all political parties".



***"No unless you have to. And when it happens, all of them... For example, in the (...) Initiative, I went to the Great Union Party, we had friends who went to the AK Party. I mean, we knocked on their door without discrimination."***  
Environmental CSO

***“We had contact with political parties. We prepare an Eco Politics Document before every election. It is a guide that allows MPs or local administrators to make their own policies from an ecological perspective. Therefore, we give these to the party representatives both locally and nationally before every election.”***

Environmental CSO

***“Maybe it will happen if we’re going to do something with them all at the same time? When we are doing a business with someone there, we don’t do anything with Party A.”***

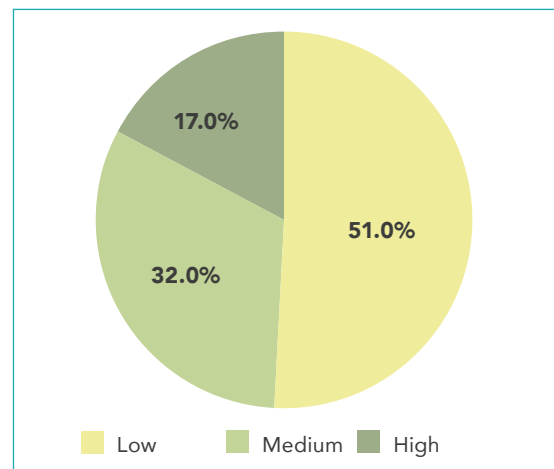
Disability CSO

***“It happens through parliamentary commissions. For example, we made a presentation on human rights in the parliamentary committee. We had contact with the party representatives representing the commission there. From time to time, almost every party currently represented in the parliament wants to meet in the stages of refugee policy development. Therefore, we provide information about the field with all of the ruling and opposition.”***

Refugee - Humanitarian Aid CSO

While dialogue with political parties is generally welcomed by CSOs, collaboration is negated. Half of the CSOs state that they are not able to cooperate with political parties, while only 17% of them state that they can collaborate.

**Graph 14.** CSOs’ Being Open to Collaboration with Political Parties





***“As long as they communicate our demands and give us the opportunity to influence the political agenda, we are positive. It cannot be dependent on any political view. But there may be goal-oriented collaboration with a political party. It is their duty to convey our demands to the parliament or to various media.”***

Women - Gender CSO



***“We have a decision not to collaborate with political parties because our aim is not to be close to one or more parties. We meet with the parties, but collaboration is something different. ”***

Women - Gender CSO



***“If the issue is about refugee and if they promise us about the approach, if they ask our opinion and want to benefit from our experience, it does not matter for us, provided that it is under the relevant criteria of the UN I’ve mentioned earlier, regardless of its political view, it does not matter. Since we are an organization in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees, aiming for their access to rights and services, we will not have any problems in collaboration that will serve this issue, especially on the opposition and the ruling front.”***

Refugee - Humanitarian Aid CSO

## SUMMARY FINDINGS ON CIVIL SOCIETY - PUBLIC DIALOGUE

- CSOs are open to both dialogue and collaboration with local governments. The institution most avoided by CSOs is the Presidency.
- Partial reservations prevail in relations with the central government. The most important drawback is the thought that coexistence will harm their legitimacy.
- CSOs state that public institutions do not get enough of them, and some organizations state that public communication channels are closed to them,
- Meeting of CSOs with public institutions is limited to their thematic areas.
- It is observed that there is a gap between CSOs and creating common grounds for the potential of CSOs to contact non-civil society actors to influence central and local government actors.
- 70% of CSOs are positive about using logo together in public collaboration.
- Although CSOs are open to dialogue with political parties, they are not collaborative. Collaboration situations are generally welcomed when it is to cover all political parties.
- Dialogue with political parties mostly takes place to bring the CSO's own agenda to the parliament.









**3**

**CIVIL SOCIETY -  
PRIVATE SECTOR  
DIALOGUE**

# CIVIL SOCIETY - PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE

The third part focused on the contacts of civil society organizations with the private sector. In this context, the current relations of CSOs with companies and the perceptions of CSO representatives towards the private sector were discussed. In this direction, findings regarding the type of contacts with the private sector so far, the approach to logo use in collaborations with companies, and views on CSO-private sector collaborations were shared according to CSO categories.

CSO representatives were asked whether their organizations had any contact with the private sector on any issue. Contacts with the private sector are mostly based on visits / meetings and sponsorships. Disability CSOs are the most communicating category with the private sector, while human rights CSOs have the least contact.

**Table 9.** Types of Activities in Relations with the Private Sector

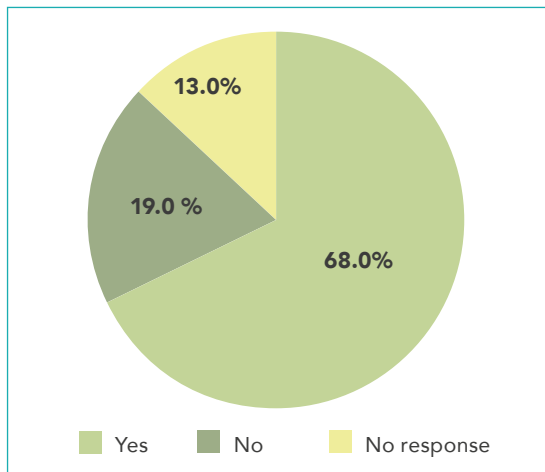
	Rate
Visit / Acquaintance	64.7%
Getting Support / Sponsorship	52.9%
Organizing an event	48.0%
Making a project	44.1%
A disputed situation	10.8%

When asked through which type of activity CSOs had contact with a company through determining their level of communication with companies, 29% of the CSOs stated that they contacted private companies through visiting / acquaintance. While this is followed by making projects with 24%, getting support and organizing events at the same rate with 20% are the means of contact of CSOs with private companies. 5% of the CSOs state that there is no consensus on this issue and that there is a disputed situation (See Table 9).

CSO representatives were asked whether there are companies that they would not prefer to have their organizations logo side by side.



**Graph 15.** *Is There A Company You Would Not Want Your Logo To Be Side By Side?*



Stating that public institutions and their logos can come side by side, CSOs do not think similarly for companies. 68% of CSOs state that they are companies or companies that they would not want to use their logos together. 19% think that companies and their logos can come side by side.

While most of the CSOs say that there are companies that they would not want their logos to be side by side, those who personally give a company name are very few. To the open-ended question, only 7 CSOs (6.9%) stated that they would not prefer to have their logos next to each other by specifying a company name in particular. Companies that do not want to come side by side are mostly treated at the level of values and ethical concerns, not by name or sector. These companies are defined as those that damage the arms industry, the cigarette and tobacco industry and ecology, employ child labor, make sexist advertising, have racist and discriminatory discourses, and have a problematic track record on labor rights and labor issues.



**"A:** *Is there a company you wouldn't want your logo to be side by side?*


**G:** *(Thinking.) I mean, I can't name companies, but if there is a company in our field of work that is very contrary to us in principle ... A weapons company, for example. It is a branch of the arms industry. We cannot come together with them, of course, when there is a situation related to war, we will not come together with companies you know specifically about assimilation, that is, we see difficulties in their approach to the Kurdish issue."*

Civil Society / Think Tank




**"None.** *Of course, we do not come together with extremist, that is, racist or violent institutions, depending on the subject. And our logo cannot be side by side with them anyway."*

Human Rights Organization



***"I don't think of a private company name, but we don't want our logo to come side by side with a company that has destroyed the environment, destroyed the ecological area, or has employed and exploited people in a way that violates human rights. In other words, even if we know this fact, with a company whose manager is involved in some business, even if we know this fact, it will not be possible to get funds from that company, to communicate with that company, to do a joint business."***

Civil Society / Think Tank



***"Of course there is. There is a very clear answer to this. There are even too many companies. The company is the most problematic issue. In other words, we do not want to come together with any company that has wrong practices regarding the environment, or we do not want other companies of its group. This is also a problem because such companies are too many."***


Environmental CSO



***"G: Sure. For example, oil companies. Fossil fuel companies. Generally. It doesn't come anyway. We never get side by side with them. I mean we do not do business together. I'm not saying that we don't go where they are. I can also invite them. I can go to talk, to consult, or if they invite if there is a free environment but I don't do business together. I am open to dialogue, but I do not cooperate."***

Civil Society / Think Tank

As can be seen from the quotations, private sector-CSO relations are criticized, considering that businesses that start with well-intentioned initiatives in companies experience a shift in meaning and target in the marketing and advertising stages. Concerns about private sector collaborations often focus on this point. CSOs are concerned about companies seeing themselves as a PR (public relations), communication tool.



***"G: I think they both need each other. I mean in terms of corporate social responsibility projects. Companies have budgets and indeed the civil society world has good ideas. When these come together, it really does have a good social impact, but I just believe companies shouldn't look at it as PR. Because when you look at it with a focus on communication, that effect is already minimized, but I think the joint work between the two is important."***

Children's CSO



*“They are trying to do short-term PR, rather than let’s do very long-term, joint work, create a change. Especially now they are withdrawing from sponsorship. They mostly evaluate those funds under human resources and corporate communication, which is PR and doing jobs that will increase the motivation of their own employees. It is mostly because they feel good by doing voluntary work in CSOs, but of course, these one-off short-term jobs generally do not serve a social change and transformation.”*

Environmental CSO



*“Unfortunately, the private sector relations with the civil society in Turkey are still mostly progressing as follows. Private sector employees and companies treat civil society organizations as if CSOs oblige them and try to establish a hierarchy above civil society organizations. However, there is mutual interest here and as far as we can see, the purpose of many works done is to support PR studies. In other words, there are studies they have done to brighten their image in the eyes of the public, unfortunately, as we see, but we still see that instead of spending all their money on gifts in their organizations, many companies have started to turn this into philanthropy by supporting different civil society organizations.”*

Education CSO

Private sector-CSO collaborations, which are not liked in Turkey, are mostly stated as PR and advertising works of companies, which are considered to be in the background of the goals of CSOs.

**"A: Well, is there any example that you do not find right in private sector-CSO collaboration?"**

**G: Probably, there are many collaborations that we do not know about, in private sector-CSO collaboration. As I said, what we do not find the most accurate is actually what is done in the form of a PR study, not for good, of course we can understand this to some extent in the private sector, but we do not see the collaborations that go in this hierarchical order as very important, but I cannot give a specific example right now."**

Education CSO

**"G: In general I don't find this right. The masses that civil society organizations serve to be instrumentalized by the private sector. Like asking us to bring a couple of kids, like let's take a picture. I don't like it, so I think it should go a little quieter, deeply, impact oriented."**

Children's CSO

**"G2: I can think of some things but I don't want to say. Let me just say in this context. Sometimes companies seem to have taken huge steps, but they are actually taking very small steps."**

**G1: It can be something like this. They put 10 times the money they transfer to that project to communication. This is very common and these are not good examples of course."**  
Environmental CSO

In addition, the practices and discourses contradicting the work areas of the CSOs with which the companies cooperate are among the issues that CSOs hesitate to cooperate in terms of their reputation.

It is seen that the projects and campaigns, which are seen as good examples in the private sector-CSO collaboration in Turkey, are limited to the most memorable and highly visible works.



**G:** *Civil society is an example that we can show as good in the private sector. Of course there is. I think the best example is the one with no PR work from our perspective. So of course it is done in terms of providing an idea to everyone. In particular, I cannot give a name, but for example (...) has very good works.*

**A:** *What makes this example good in your eyes?*

**G:** *The good part is the visibility, because of course the advertising budget is spent a lot, especially when you are a good company in the private sector. I think the best part is that it informs people of this situation, that is, it raises the public awareness. In such cases, it's the most important feature for me. (...) G: For example (T...). (K...) project. They did it with (Ç...) long ago. Projects like these are important in order to raise awareness of the society."*

Education CSOs

The most admired CSO - private sector collaborations are examples of projects or campaigns whose purpose is considered reasonable, responds to a direct need, creates resources, supports women's empowerment, girls' schooling, and raises awareness.



**"(A...) had a collaboration with (I...) in its 70th year. The needs were met and nobody knew about it until it reached the needy. It was more than just putting themselves forward by the brands that really served the purpose. I think it was a very sincere campaign. That's why I liked the work of (A...) and (I...)."**

Urban CSO




**"I think G: (...) had a running campaign. Although I don't remember the content very much, it was something that drew a lot of attention.**

**A:** *Why is it a good example for you?*

**G:** *Every (...) we bought were count as donations to the civil society organization. I guess that's why I remember it."*

Urban CSO



**"G: Nowadays (F...) is doing something for women like (P...)... I know only as much as I saw in the advertisement. I don't know a woman who bought the product, but okay, these are still precious things.**

**A: What makes this a good example?**

**G: Being visible. Breaking all that tradition. Showing a woman pumping gas, not ironing."**


Gender / Women's CSO



**"As I said, girls' participation in life and education, going to university, these are important issues. It doesn't have to be an impact, it has been in my mind to raise awareness."**

Human Rights CSO

Collaborations established by large local holdings and communities based in Istanbul with CSOs are remembered and seen as examples of good collaboration.



**"G: So for example (K...) and (S...) have many such collaborations. As you know, they do this through their foundations. Apart from that (E...) there is an example that comes to my mind. Another in Ankara ... And in Istanbul (S...) works actively on these issues. Actually, when we look at the big companies of Turkey... So yes, we can say that it is more on an event basis, on a personal relationship basis."**

Children's CSO





Banks are also appreciated by CSOs as organizations that contribute to civil society.



**G:** For example, this example is good, I think the City was Mine or I think it was the Goodness in the City project, (A...) had a collaboration with Darülaceze.

**A:** What makes this example good?

**G:** First, Darülaceze is an institution that stands in the middle. An institution that does not belong to one place or any political view. An organization that only provides assistance with basic functions that people need. It has no political connections and can be regarded as a direct institution of the state, but it also has a special status. It's a slightly different institution. (A...) a very powerful organization. It is one of the richest companies in the sector in Turkey, so their support at this point is a good example.

Civil Society / Think Tank

The CSOs, of which the founders are private sector organizations, are shown as examples of CSO - private sector collaboration.



**G:** Private sector collaboration with CSOs? I will say something, our collaboration with (...) has been going on for nine years, for example. Very good. Collaboration with (...) again and with (...), there are also collaborations with other organizations at the firm level, I could not remember but (...) is doing good things.

**A:** What makes these examples good?

**G:** They being sustainable and touching a very wide field and achieving their goals, and they really don't seem to pretend."  
Women / Gender CSO



**G:** There is (...) for example.

**A:** What makes this example good for you?

**G:** Performs a focused study on a specific field. Rather than being project-oriented, it is an effort to establish and develop an institution and to grow an institution. In this sense, this institution seems to me as a positive model.  
Civil Society / Think Tank

Although transferring most of the resources to certain CSOs regarding private sector support is the subject of the interviews, there is no negative attitude towards these CSOs. CSOs believe that the private sector attaches importance to the popularity of CSOs through recognition and visibility, rather than expertise, when supporting. For this reason, it is stated that some CSOs are at a disadvantage in finding resources.

***“So there are certain organizations, especially some organizations with public interest. The same (private sector) supports have been given through the same organizations for years, but a little differentiation is required. In other words, the same organization every year, always the same organization. So actually this makes the organization dependent at some point. In other words, the private sector needs to meet with different organizations in that field. The private sector’s point of view on the event is a little easy. The same process continues with the same organization every year, without any effort.”***

Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO

***“I think the issue of public benefit status is something that comes from the public again. ... Why is this important? While large companies sponsor CSOs, they want to deduct this support from taxes. If you do not have public benefit status, you cannot do this. This, of course, is a major obstacle for the majority of civil society to get support from the private sector. This causes certain CSOs to thrive and others have financial difficulties. This is one of the important things. If this is eliminated, perhaps a little more open space can be created.”***

Environmental CSO

Finally, CSOs were asked which organizations they would like to work with from the private sector. CSOs that want to establish such a collaboration state that they want to work with large companies operating in Turkey and mostly with international companies. Apart from holding companies, telecommunication, technology, and information companies are also the institutions that are welcomed to work together.

***“With large organizations. It would be nice if we worked with (T..) for example. We would like to work with large organizations. Because its the support of the private sector that enlarges the organization.”***

Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO



***"I just mentioned, (...) Holding, (...) Holding, (...) Holding. We can work with many companies. (V...), could work with all."***  
Civil Society / Think Tank



***"It could be all the companies on the tax record holders list, but we don't have much choice."***  
Disability CSO



***"I am sure that I can work with organizations that are well-known among their field, which have allocated both budget and human resources for social work, and have developed capacity building. By name, it could be (C...), (S...)."***  
Refugee / Humanitarian Aid CSO

CSOs, which define themselves with conservative values, often do not give examples to private sector organizations with which they look to work together. Conservative values are also observed in the contacts to be established with companies. The political dichotomy for conservative CSOs stands out as a determinant in private sector collaborations. Secular CSOs, on the other hand, often do not remember companies representing the other end in their secular-conservative dichotomy when they consider possible relationships with companies.



***"There are of course. Let's say (T...), (A...), (F...), (Ü...). For example, we both have communication with them and these are institutions that we can work with. The limit here is that we are an Islamic institution, so we do not want to be associated with an Islamic institution, that is, a bank with interest. Indeed, this happened. There was a support offer from them. We did not accept. Or, for example, we wouldn't want to cooperate with the publicly known organization that eats and eats the workers' rights."***  
Civil Society / Think Tank



***"So we don't prefer things associated with the Jewish Lobby. So there is nothing I know. Zionist lobby. We do not want to be associated with the Zionist lobby with things that legitimize American or Russian policies."***  
Human Rights CSO



***"We have rules. No oil company, no alcohol company. There are such things. We do not cooperate with a sexual company."***  
Environmental CSO

## SUMMARY FINDINGS ON CIVIL SOCIETY - PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE

- CSOs are more distant to the private sector than the public sector.
- 68% of the interviewed CSOs do not lean towards using logos in private sector collaborations.
- The companies most wanted to collaborate in the private sector are large and international companies.
- CSOs state that they are far from companies that do not match their values in their collaborations.
- Companies that do not want to come side by side are mostly treated at the level of values and ethical concerns, not by name or sector.

Common criteria in relation to the private sector: The size of the communication item in the budget allocated to the project. When CSOs work with the private sector, they argue that communication should not get in the way of project goals.





The background is a solid teal color. On the left side, there are several white geometric shapes that resemble stylized arrows or chevrons pointing towards the right. These shapes are layered, with some overlapping others, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**4**

# **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the face-to-face meetings with CSO representatives within the scope of the Dialogue Mapping Research, we focused on how civil society organizations describe their fields and how Turkey civil society is perceived by the actors that make up this field.

The common point of the narratives subjected to qualitative analysis was as follows: Turkey civil society mostly simply uses a distinction between “what is and does not” and expresses this area by establishing dichotomies between these definitions. We summarized the dichotomies that CSOs most frequently resort to in three approaches while defining other actors in their fields of activity.

The first of these is the rights-based CSOs - aid-based CSOs dichotomy. In this approach, there are some statements that rights-based studies are positioned so superior that aid-based studies are often considered unnecessary. In addition, there is a tendency not to see the CSOs they see at the other end of this dichotomy as an element of civil society, depending on where CSOs position themselves in this dichotomy. It can be said that working with a rights-based approach among CSOs in Turkey is adopted and that the actors of different thematic areas are largely defined by rights-based organizations. In the mapping study conducted according to the Civil Topography

Classification<sup>3</sup>, advocacy organizations are at the center of the positive approach map, while charitable organizations and politically oriented CSOs and self-organizations that are close to charity activities are on the periphery of this map. The importance of rights-based works and knowledge in civil society in the development of democratization, human rights and fundamental freedoms in Turkey cannot be denied. However, it is worth considering that the impassable walls established in the rights-based-aid-based dichotomy may create some obstacles in making the civil society dialogue ground functional. It is quite common to ignore organizations that do not focus on rights and not to be addressed. This can lead to overlooking the possibility of meeting with organizations that carry out activities that

3 The Civil Topography Classification, which is used as an analysis tool developed by YADA, in order to overcome the problem of classification to bring unique and inclusive approach and proposes a new classification which considers the weaknesses, differences, originalities, and potentials of civil society in Turkey, as an output of the research entitled “Civil Society Culture in Voluntary Organizations in Turkey”.





undertake socialization, support, or assistance functions, or establishing collaboration or sharing through knowledge, observations and experiences about the field and the target audience.

The second dichotomy that stands out in the civil society classification was an approach that pointed to the conservative - secular distinction in Turkey. In this approach, variables such as political party preference, religion, belief, identity, ideology discussed in social polarization studies are less preferred by CSOs in clustering organizations working in their fields. Only 6 of the 102 CSOs interviewed state that a grouping can / can be done based on determinants such as religion, political approach, and identity. While describing civil society in Turkey, those who think that Islamic organizations can be considered as a separate category are again those who define their own organizations with Islamic values. Organizations that do not define their own institutions with Islamic values and conservatism do not categorize civil society in terms of conservatism / secularism. However, this is more related to denying the legitimacy of the existence of the category they oppose, rather than the absence of such a dichotomy. Organizations that do not define themselves with conservative and Islamic values do not see organizations that define themselves as conservative in the field of civil society; therefore, it does not define its own areas within the framework of this dichotomy. When looking at the political positions of CSOs in the dialogue maps, it is seen that secular CSOs are more central in positive approaches than conservative CSOs. One of the indicators of this dichotomy is that there are no conservative-oriented CSOs located in the center of the political position map. On the other hand, secular CSOs with high visibility and open to visibility in their collaborations are appreciated by conservative CSOs, and conservative CSOs favor the use of logos with secular CSOs that are deemed desirable.

The third approach in the classification of civil society is about bias and neutrality, another dichotomy that stands out in the dynamics of dislike or disliking other CSOs. Although this bias and neutrality is mostly described as being close to the government, there is also a responsibility according to the private sector and the state of benefiting from funding sources. CSOs define a category called project work and the relationship this category establishes with the funders is seen as bias. However, there is a general positive view of international funding sources in civil society. It seems that CSOs are particularly open to international funds. There is a more distant stance to the funds and public support of religious organizations compared to the international funds, consulates, and embassy funds of CSOs. Stating that there is no source of funds that 15.8% of CSOs would not prefer, only 3% of them state that their organizations have a principled decision to receive funds. In the reflection of the bias-neutrality dichotomy on the dialogue map, it is seen that CSOs, which have organic ties with the government, are placed in the center of the negative perception map. CSOs defined in this direction focus on education, humanitarian aid / refugee and women themes. The criticism that CSOs in this area, which is most negatively affected by CSOs, have strong ties with the government and that they are not transparent, is strong. These criticisms come from both secular CSOs and other conservative organizations operating in their own fields. In this sense, the dichotomy of bias and neutrality that defines this area in civil society differs from the secular-conservative dichotomy.

Not only in Turkey but worldwide, issues that affect each other and trigger each other (such as gender, poverty, participation) or create a multiplier effect on disadvantage (such as discrimination based on disability, age, gender, belief, identity, etc.) makes it necessary to work together. A single thematic area of expertise cannot afford this diversity. In this context,

collaboration and contact of CSOs working on different issues/themes is necessary. However, one of the findings highlighted by the research is the distance between themes and the tendency towards closure within the themes. First of all, there is little thematic transition between CSOs in existing collaborations and their tendency to get in contact with organizations that CSOs have not met before. In this respect, there is an in-theme closure in relations among CSOs. Although the works and activities of CSOs are limited to their own subjects, the experience of coexistence for learning and getting to know each other is also insufficient. Collaborations among CSOs are also among familiar CSOs that previously collaborated. The existing collaborations between themes are limited to works between themes seen adjacent to each other. The most prominent examples of these come to life on issues such as children, the disability, and education, which are often intertwined. On the other hand, it is striking in the findings that CSOs working with gender and women focus cannot envision a common ground to come together with the theme of environment, which we also cover issues such as climate and food within the scope of the research.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

In the civil society environment where CSO-CSO collaborations are limited to the thematic areas and familiarity, the ways of getting together with the CSOs that are stuck in thematic areas and dichotomies and not contacted until that day should be developed. These contacts can be realized through one-on-one acquaintance, self-expression and gathering focused on listening to the vision and activities of CSOs positioned at the other end of the scale as being unlike itself. In addition to the closure within the theme, a completely work-oriented commitment and commitment within the CSOs makes the institutional processes functional, but it brings with it the introversion about the collaboration between CSOs. In this sense, the flexibility that CSOs will provide to their staff and having an attitude open to institutional collaboration can narrow this area of introversion.

Although inter-thematic contact can be realized between topics that require coexistence due to the target audience (for example, the issue of participation of children with autism in education that brings together education-child-disabled themes), such partnerships are built on the intersectional familiarity of the subject. However, CSOs need to gain perspective by seeing their own fields outside of that field and looking at the subject they are in from outside. In this context, it

is necessary to provide common areas that bring together different themes such as “disabled refugee education” or in the center, it is necessary to provide common areas that bring together different themes such as “Alevi women”, which need the contact of Alevi and women’s CSOs, but also include identity-based organizations in the periphery. Similarly, contact options should be developed within the framework of such common stakeholders / common areas in the collaboration between public-CSO-local administrations. It is important to develop dialogue within this ecosystem, which includes a variety of themes and brings together public-CSO-private sector actors, and in this direction, it is important to establish such dialogues through non-institutional structures such as platforms and initiatives. The dialogue developed especially through non-institutional structures does have the potential to increase the dialogue between institutional structures.

There seems to be a need to encourage especially cross-theme collaboration in civil society.

It is important to prioritize thematic diversity in EU grants and support programs, considering the current introversion (tendency to contact the similar and familiar one) and the limitation of invitations within the theme. For example, setting quotas for participants in different fields and sectors in the invitations or the inter-thematic cooperation requirement can be the starting point for such collaborations. In addition, in the distribution of these support programs, it is important to observe whether CSOs have met before and the development of past acquaintances between CSOs and whether these acquaintances are at the level of collaboration. It is important not to seek legal entities and to support informal relations in civil society to increase the influence of civil society in order to benefit from support in applications from CSOs.

