Development of civil society in Namangan region: Status, Problems and Prospects
Development of civil society in Namangan region: status, problems and prospects

Authors: Mr. Atadjanov Farkhad, sociologist
Ms. Sysina Tatyana, sociologist

The present document has been developed under the auspices of the “Enhancement of Living Standards in Namangan Region” Project implemented with the financial support of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The present report reviews the current status of civil society organizations in Namangan Region, the main trends of their development and their relationship with public authorities. This publication is destined for a general public, as well as for those specialists who work in the third sector and are involved with issues relating to the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Summary** .................................................................................................................................................. 4

**Information on Namangan Region** ........................................................................................................... 6

**Introduction** ................................................................................................................................................ 7
  - Goals and Objectives of the Study ............................................................................................................. 7
  - Methodological Approaches ....................................................................................................................... 8
  - Data Collection Methods ............................................................................................................................ 8
  - Data Analysis and Processing Technique ................................................................................................... 9

**Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region** ................................................................. 10
  - Chapter 1. Knowledge of Citizens of Namangan Region about Civil Society ...................................... 10
  - Chapter 2. Structure of Civil Society in Namangan Region .................................................................. 12
  - Chapter 3. Development of the Non-Commercial Sector in Namangan Region .................................. 18
  - Chapter 4. Local Self-Governing Bodies ................................................................................................... 21

**Section 2. Assessment of Current Capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** ......................... 26
  - Chapter 1. Personnel Capacity of CSOs .................................................................................................. 26
  - Chapter 2. Equipment and Technical Base: Sources of Financing ......................................................... 30
  - Chapter 3. Role of International Organizations in the Development of CSOs ...................................... 30

**Section 3. Assessment of Operation of CSOs in the External Environment** ....................................... 32
  - Chapter 1. Assessment of Legal Awareness and Operational Activity of CSOs .................................. 32
  - Chapter 2. Assessment of Cross-Sectoral Interaction ......................................................................... 35
  - Chapter 3. Identification of Mass Media as an Instrument for Information Support on Social Partnership .......................................................... 38
  - Chapter 4. Main Initiatives and Prospects for CSOs ............................................................................. 40

**Conclusion** .................................................................................................................................................. 45
Summary

The current structure of Civil Society in Namangan region may be divided into the following principal components: non-governmental organizations (NGOs), citizen’s local self-governing bodies, homeowners association, political parties and trade unions.

This report was focused on analysis of the current status of civil society in Namangan region and its development trends, through the study of the capacity of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs), mahallya, (neighborhoods) village and rural assemblies and homeowners associations and their interaction with government and commercial organizations.

In addition to financial and material-technical problems, a shortage of qualified personnel is one of the key issues being faced by most civil society organizations (CSOs) in Namangan region. Their personnel are in need of improving knowledge and skills in such areas as management, institutional building and development and planning and design.

Local self-governing bodies are the most influential among other CSOs. Citizen’s assemblies are capable of solving multiple social issues of the community and they enjoy an absolute authority among the population, as well as financial and material support from governmental agencies.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) emerged during the years of independence and may be divided by the character of their formation, into two categories: those established “from above” on the initiative of the state and those established “from below” on the initiative of citizens. In general, the population has little knowledge and information about the activity of NGOs, especially those established by the citizens themselves.

Partnership between CSOs, governmental organizations and local authorities has been developed through such mechanisms as “round tables” and joint participation in citizen’s assemblies.

At the same time, social partnership with organizations of the commercial sector is still underdeveloped. This is due both to the lack of a legal framework aimed at encouraging entrepreneurs to contribute to charity, and as well as a low level of confidence amongst the majority of commercial entities, with respect to the professionalism of NGOs.
**Information on Namangan region**
(as of 1 January 2004)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative center</th>
<th>City of Namangan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>In the North-West part of Fergana valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distance between Namangan and Tashkent</strong></td>
<td>432 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>7.44 thousand square km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative-territorial division</strong></td>
<td>11 districts, 8 towns, 11 urban-type villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terrain</strong></td>
<td>Predominantly flat with gradual transition to “Chatkal” and “Kurama” mountains at the beginning of Tien-Shan range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural resources</strong></td>
<td>Reserves of mineral resources, loess loam, oil and gas, gold fields and silver and gold ore deposits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Climate</strong></td>
<td>Continental climate with relatively soft winter and hot summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>2,042,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urban population, including women</strong></td>
<td>765,210, 381,442</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rural population, including women</strong></td>
<td>1,277,298, 636,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Density</strong></td>
<td>275.3 people per 1 square km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National composition</strong></td>
<td>Uzbek (87.8%), Tajik (9.0%), others (3.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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http://naman.uzpak.uz/
Introduction

A range of international organizations render their assistance to officially proclaimed policy on formation of the foundation for civil society development in Uzbekistan, through implementation of projects aimed at providing technical support, personnel training and assistance in the development of social partnership.

The above projects include the “Enhancement of Living Standards in Namangan region” (ELSNR) carried out with the financial support of the European Union (EU) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in close collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is aimed at stimulating local communities into activities, as well as to the formation of integrated and positive dialogue between CSOs and the government at regional and local levels, with the purpose of promotion of complete mutual understanding and trust.

For successful implementation of project goals and objectives, it is necessary to investigate the real-life state of civil society development in Namangan region. This is the main issue covered by the present study.

The aim of the research was to study interaction between CSOs, governmental and business-commercial entities, as well as international organizations carrying out activities in Namangan region.

Issues related to the structure of civil society had particular meaning for planning of the research. The study team proceeded from the point that “civil society” represents an interaction of individuals, various social groups and strata regulated by the civil law. Ideally, it is a system of social institutions and relations independent from the state, which is designed to provide conditions for self-actualization of individuals and groups and accomplishment of private interests and demands.

Goals and Objectives of the Study

Goals:

Analysis of the current status of civil society in Namangan region, together with trends and issues related to civil society organizations (CSOs).

Objectives:

➢ To study the status of key segments in the development of civil society in Namangan region: non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOS) and community-based organizations (CBOs).

➢ To identify the main initiatives put forward by CSOs, as well as difficulties and problems faced by them in their daily activity.

➢ To identify the priority needs of CSOs, including those in knowledge and skills.

➢ To study the current conditions in Namangan region in relation to the development of social partnership between CSOs, governmental and business entities.
Introduction

➢ To study the role of international organizations operating in the region in strengthening the institutional capacity of CSOs.

Methodological Approaches

Based on the goals and objectives, the following methodological approaches have been developed to carry out the study:

➢ collection of quantitative and qualitative data from all accessible sources;
➢ comprehensive content-analysis of all qualitative data collected;
➢ triangulation, i.e. cross analysis and verification of data;
➢ use of uneven qualitative rating scale;
➢ comparative approach towards analysis and assessment of the situation in the sector of civil society.

Data Collection Methods

Data was collected between 8 August and 25 August 2005 in Namangan region and Tashkent.

To accomplish the goals and objectives of the study, the following methods were used:

➢ collection of qualitative information through in-depth interviews;
➢ collection of quantitative information with the use of a standard questionnaire in face-to-face interviews;
➢ analysis of secondary data and legal documents.

An in-depth interview method was used for collection of qualitative information. In the course of the study, in-depth interviews were conducted with the following experts: journalists, scientists, party activists, businessmen and heads of the most advanced NGOs in the region.

Quantitative information was collected through face-to-face interviews, based on a standard questionnaire. Questionnaires were developed for three categories of respondents; Table 1 below shows general information about the respondents.
Introduction

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Category of respondents</th>
<th>Interview Site</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Representatives of community-based organizations — mahallya, village and rural assemblies, homeowners association</td>
<td>City of Namangan, Kasansai, Mingbulak, Namangan, Naryn, Pap, Turakurgan, Uichi, Uchkurgan, Chartak, Chust districts</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leaders and activists of non-governmental non-profit organizations</td>
<td>City of Namangan, Namangan, Turakurgan, Uichi, Chartak, Yangikurgan districts</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community members</td>
<td>Kasansai, Mingbulak, Chartak districts</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Random-probability and quota sampling was used during the study.

Sampling computation to interview leaders of citizen’s assemblies and homeowners associations was based on data provided by “Mahallya” Foundation of Namangan region, as of the date of the study. In general, CBO interview array was 15 percent of the total number of CBOs of Namangan region.

The selection of NGOs was achieved through the “snowball” methodology. In total, 30 leaders of NGOs were interviewed.

Interviews with community members were conducted in three target districts of the ELSNR Project (Kasansai, Mingbulak and Chartak) on the basis of quota sampling (according to the type of location and sex). Computation of sampled population was made on the basis of data provided by the State Statistics Committee as of 1 April 2005.

Data Analysis and Processing Technique

All qualitative and quantitative information collected was analyzed and data-based after encoding. Quantitative data was processed with the help of specially designed software and the frequency tables obtained have been transformed into diagrams.

Qualitative data obtained as a result of study of secondary documents, as well as interview of representatives of international organizations, NGOs and experts, was analyzed and categorized.

The status of CSOs was assessed in accordance with methodological approaches based on analysis of the data processing results.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

Chapter 1. Knowledge of Citizens of Namangan Region about Civil Society

Uzbekistan was subject to the same drastic political, economic and social reforms beginning in the late-1980s and early-1990s, experienced by all former Soviet republics. One of the striking peculiarities of such changes was the stirring-up of citizens, which resulted in an increased number of NGOs, informal groups of the population, unions and associations of various types.

At the same time, in spite of the abundance of different non-governmental associations and movements, the level of self-organization of Uzbekistan citizens, including citizens of Namangan region, is still low. Initiatives “from above”, rather than a demand of certain social classes in independent promotion of their own interests, is still decisive in the formation of civil society.

In this connection it must be emphasized, that “civil society” is a society with self-governing structures, representing a totality of relations between individuals, groups, institutions and organizations not mediated by the government. In civil society, free and independent citizens, whose natural rights are under the protection of law, come into relations with each other. An initial baseline of all rights and freedoms is the right of a sovereign individual to associate with other sovereign individuals for protection of personal interests.

The situation with civil society development in Namangan region is assessed quite objectively and substantively by the majority of experts (participants of in-depth interviews). They mostly believe that it is too early to suggest the presence of civil society in the region, although they emphasize that the process of its formation has already started.

The issue of looking for the ways of civil society formation in the Republic is not recent: it has been discussed from the beginning of the 1990s on different levels and to different extents. As a result, the concept of civil society has become one that generally causes a positive reaction in grassroots consciousness. This is also confirmed by the results of this study, with 71 percent of respondents having heard of the term “civil society”. The awareness level is considerably higher amongst the leaders of NGOs (96.7 percent) and heads of citizens’ assemblies (93.1 percent); and lower amongst leaders of homeowners’ associations (58.3 percent) and ordinary residents (52.0 percent).

Table 1.1 below shows how the main sources of information relating to civil society, varies for NGO activists and other groups. Whilst the leaders of NGOs most often receive information during the activities of the third sector (48.3 percent), the leaders of CBOs and ordinary residents learn largely from the mass media.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>Homeowners associations</th>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass media</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>85.7</td>
<td>37.9</td>
<td>88.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities held by NGOs</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities held by public bodies</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/No answer</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.1

Civil Society Information Sources
(% of total number of interviewed people of every group)
Television is the main information source for the majority of the population of Namangan region. More than half of the total number of people interviewed (59.9 percent) learned the term “civil society” for the first time, from television programmes, whilst 10.6 percent learned from press publications (newspapers and magazines). Different activities and meetings of both NGOs and public bodies (9.9 percent each) play an important role in the distribution of information to the population. A small number of people learned the term for the first time from neighbors and friends (3.5 percent), educational institutions (2.1 percent) and radio broadcasts (1.4 percent). An additional 2.8 percent of respondents had difficulties in answering the question.

What meaning then is understood amongst the residents of Namangan region by the term “civil society”? The majority of respondents are close to reflecting different aspects of the classical interpretation of the term. More than one-third of the interviewed people associated civil society with self-government, with a certain degree of autonomy of society in interaction with government, as well as with self-organization of citizens and their need for protection of personal interests. Thus, 25.5 percent of respondents believe that civil society is “a society governed by citizens by means of local self-governing bodies”, whilst 16.0 percent thought it “public organizations, which protect and represent the interests of different social groups, vulnerable population especially”.

The answers of respondents also reflected one of the classical interpretations of civil society (already defined by Hegel) as a system of civil relations based on law: 7.5 percent linked civil society with supremacy of law and equal protection of the law. Therefore, legal protection is understood by Namangan residents as a basis of civil society, the importance of which is not less than the opportunity for self-organization and self-government. A legal description of civil society was mainly given by the leaders of NGOs (26.7 percent).

More than one-in-four respondents (26.5 percent) expressed a common and basic understanding of civil society: as “a totality of citizens united by territorial community”. A large group of people, mainly ordinary residents (35.0 percent) and leaders of homeowners associations (41.6 percent), were unable to interpret their understanding of civil society.

Table 1.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Interviewed Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assemblies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Homeowners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a society governed by citizens by means of local self-governing</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>48.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bodies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a totality of citizens united by territorial community</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is public organizations protecting and representing interests of</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>different social groups, vulnerable population especially</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is a society, where there is a supremacy of law, observance of</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rights and freedoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 2. Structure of Civil Society in Namangan Region

The main constituents of civil society are NGOs of different types, CBOs and the mass media. Based on the objectives and tasks of the study, non-commercial organizations (firms of attorneys, private schools, therapeutic institutions and other); consumers cooperative societies (their spheres of activity are mainly construction, installation, production); religious associations; and non-commercial joint-stock companies, such as notaries, trade and industry and other chambers; are not included as their activities are mainly of an economic, religious or ideological nature, rather than a social one.

Non-governmental organizations. According to the data from the Department of Justice as of 1 July 2005, there were 236 public associations registered in Namangan Region. They are divided by their organizational and legal form into societies, unions, funds, federations, trade unions, clubs, political parties, movements, associations, centers, chambers, etc.

Trade Unions are mass NGOs uniting workers of certain professions and students on a voluntary basis. The rights of citizens to join trade unions are vested in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Trade Unions, Rights and Guarantees of Their Activity” specifies their legal status. Trade unions are organized on the basis of industrial, sectoral and territorial principles. Their activity is coordinated and directed by the Regional Council of Trade Unions. Presently there are 14 trade unions registered at the Department of Justice of Namangan Region. Namangan trade unions underwent little change during the years of reforms, their activities, membership basis and sources of financing, remaining largely the same.

In Uzbekistan the necessary legal framework has been created for trade union activities; the unions are granted priority rights to conduct negotiations and conclude agreements and labor contracts. Regular meetings and consultations between trade union leaders and the administration of the regions are held, with trilateral agreements and other documents being signed. Today they are the mass, branched social institutions.

Political parties represent group and individual interests, constitute the main element of civil society and its institutions and create conditions, which allow the population to control the activity of elected public authorities by democratic methods.

The political arena of Namangan region is represented by all five parties registered in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU) links a considerable part of public administration officials of all levels, managers of many enterprises and representatives of various categories of the population. The Party has providently transferred its main activity to local structures – to mahallya, by maintaining discipline and having a strong resource base and its own media.

- Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (LDP) is mainly based on a broad strata of businessmen.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

- National Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Fidokorlar" considers public-spirited youth and businessmen as its main electorate. Its declared objective is the development of a democratic state and market economy.

- Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Adolat" has a membership which includes representatives of the scientific and technical intelligentsia.

- Democratic Party “Milliy Tiklanish” consists of workers in the science and arts fields.

The first three parties only (PDPU, LDP and “Fidokorlar”) have branches in all districts of Namangan region.

Elected representatives in the Regional Council of People’s Deputies comprise People’s Democratic Party with 33 deputies (or 55 percent of seats); Liberal Democratic Party, 16 deputies (or 26 percent of seats); “Fidorkorlar” Party, 5 deputies (or 8 percent of seats); and “Adolat” and “Milliy Tiklanish”, which share the remaining 6 seats (11 percent).

The PDPU is the implicit leader, according to the main parameters which define the extent of political impact (number of deputies in parliament, number of members of the Party and number of local branches). The party has 56,000 members in Namangan region.

This tendency is reflected in the results of this study. Thus, of people familiar with the political parties, an absolute majority (92.7 percent) mentioned the PDPU. More than a half of those interviewed (60.1 percent) are aware of the LDP and around 30 percent knew of “Fidokorlar”. Only 10.9 percent are aware of “Adolat” and 8.7 percent, “Milliy Tiklanish”.

Bar Chart 1.1

Population Awareness of Political Parties Functioning in Namangan Region
(% of total number of interviewed people of each group)

Political parties’ activity analysis shows that their theoretical and organizational foundations are still at the stage of formation. The most serious weakness of all parties is their isolation: a lack of skills of interaction both with parties and movements proposing similar programs and with other institutions of civil society in general.

Not all of the political parties could get their ideas across convincingly to voters. For some parties, their provision and directives are indistinct and amorphous and their policies generally
follow the government and use its promoted ideas and concepts. All parties, other than the PDPU, have low membership numbers and do not have strong local branches.

However, residents of Namangan region realize the necessity of political parties for public development and in their understanding, political parties are an integral institution of civil society and the political system as a whole. In particular, in reply to the question “To what extent do you agree with the statement ‘whether there are parties or not, nothing is going to change’?” half of the respondents expressed their absolute disagreement. Only one-in-four respondents (24.5 percent) expressed full agreement with the statement. At the same time, the population of Namangan region gives a negative assessment of the current situation of the political parties in society, their activity and interrelation with other institutions of civil society (indices vary in the range of 0.14 to 0.62).

Bar Chart 1.2

Indices of agreement/disagreement of the population with the statements defining the activity of the parties
(in the opinion of CSO leaders and community citizens)

One of the main directions in the activity of the parties is an increase in the number of supporters and membership. One-in-five of respondents (21.0 percent) is a party member and almost the same number of respondents (22.0 percent) expressed their desire to become a party member. Members of a party are mainly the leaders of citizens’ assemblies (36.2 percent) and leaders of NGOs (26.7 percent). Among the leaders of homeowners associations, only 8.3 percent belong to parties and among ordinary residents, only 12 percent are members. The PDPU is the most popular, with 71.4 percent of interviewed people who are in the ranks of the party or want to become members. A breakdown of the main groups of interview shows that somewhat more often, the leaders of citizens’ assemblies (81.2 percent) and homeowners associations (100 percent) referred to that Party. The LDP is the next most popular (8.1 percent). Its followers are mainly among the leaders of NGOs (21.4 percent). Bar chart 1.3 shows that the figures for the other parties are considerably lower. It must be mentioned that every tenth interviewed person (11.6 percent) found difficulty in naming a

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2 This index has the following features: it takes on a maximum value equal to 1 when all respondents give the highest rate (in this case it is 5 for “fully agree”). It takes on a minimal value equal to -1 when all respondents give the lowest rate (in this case it is 1 for “absolutely disagree”). The index is equal to 0 when a number of affirmative responses equals to a number of negative ones. Features of this index are typical to all indices indicated in the following, similar diagrams.
party to become a member of. This category mainly consists of ordinary residents (18.9 percent for ‘Don’t know/No answer’).

Bar chart 1.3
Which party would you like to join (or already a member of)?
(% of total number of interviewed people of every group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>LDP</th>
<th>Fidokorlar</th>
<th>Adolat</th>
<th>Milliy Tiklanish</th>
<th>Don’t know/no</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDPU</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners Associations</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>71.4</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main reasons why the residents of Namangan region do not want to become members of any of the parties (57.0 percent of total interviewed people) are the following:

Table 1.3
The reasons the population does not want to belong to any of the parties
(% of total number of interviewed people of every group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>Homeowners Associations</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t see any need in this</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because of age</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>18.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t give a credence to the parties</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have interest in politics</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not be able to cope with it</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parties cannot solve the problems</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is not a party I want to become a member of</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am a woman, a housewife</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financial capabilities</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/No answer</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-governmental organizations, movements, unions and associations are the most noticeable and active part of civil society, associated with the development level of institutions of civil society. Currently according to the assessments of the experts, the third sector in Namangan
region is in the stage of development and formation as a social institution. The characteristics of the main elements of NGOs in the region, are described in the following Chapter.

**Community-based organizations (CBOs).** One of the important institutions of civil society are CBOs. They are considered as a certain formal management structure that consolidates citizens for solving social and economic problems of special importance for a certain territory. CBOs are thought of as being democratic institutions which represent local needs. Local self-governing bodies (Mahallya Committees and village assemblies), homeowners associations, as well as initiative groups, are examples of CBOs.

**Self-governing bodies.** Mahallya is a community, present in the cities and rural areas of Uzbekistan, which is a primary political unit in accordance with the legislation of the country. It has a historic role of consolidating people living in a certain urban or rural territory, into a community.

**Self-governing Institutions Activity Scheme**

According to data provided by the “Mahallya” Fund, 118 rural assemblies and 736 Mahallya Committees are registered in Namangan region.

**Homeowners associations.** This term is a comparatively recent one in Uzbekistan. Homeowners associations appeared as a result of modification of the housing and communal services offices (HCSO) which existed during Soviet times and were responsible for the functioning of apartment houses in urban blocks. Homeowners associations are non-governmental non-profit associations of tenants established with an aim of economical and quality maintenance of their houses. Their members are tenants, who elect and dismiss a chairman and exercise control over his/her administrative and financial activities. Management of homeowners associations is exclusively subordinated to a general meeting of members of the association. There is a radical distinction between homeowners associations and the HCSO, which were public organizations.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

Currently there are 171 homeowners associations registered in Namangan region, the majority in Namangan City (128).

“Initiative groups” is not a legal definition, but a public definition of a group established and consolidated based on affinity of interests or other criteria. It is considered impossible to determine the extent of coverage of Namangan region by these groups. These groups are not registered in any of the departments on statistics, do not have bank accounts and do not appear as owners of any property (as organizations).

Mass media is an important institution of civil society as it exerts a significant influence on formation of public opinion, civil initiatives; appears as a mouthpiece of nongovernmental organizations and political parties. Currently, there are 51 newspapers published in the region. The founders of 14 newspapers are local khokimiyats, 17 are departmental and 20 are privately-owned.

The level of awareness of the residents of Namangan region of civil society structure cannot be described as being sufficiently high. Many of them do not even realize which organizations form its structure. Thus, in reply to the question “Do you think there are any organizations of civil society in your region, city, and mahallya?” about two-thirds of respondents gave an affirmative answer. At the same time every fifth person (20.0 percent) believed that there were no such organizations in the area of their residence and every tenth person (11.0 percent) could not answer the question. The tendency for the leaders of NGOs and citizens' assemblies to have more knowledge than the leaders of homeowners associations and ordinary citizens, remains.

Bar chart 1.4

Do you think there are any organizations of civil society in your region, city, and mahallya?

(\% of total number of interviewed people of every group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Assemblies</th>
<th>HA</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/no answer</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The respondents named local self-governing bodies (Mahallya Committees and village assemblies) and NGOs of various types, among the main CSOs. Other CSOs were mentioned rarely and the number of answers did not exceed 2 percent of the total number.

It is particularly worth mentioning that a proportion of the population understands the organizations of civil society to be local authorities and business structures, the numbers being 8.7 percent and 2.2 percent respectively.

A breakdown of the main analysis groups showed that the leaders of NGOs had a greater conception of civil society structures: 45.2 percent mentioned NGOs; 35.7 percent, citizens’
Chapter 3. Development of the Non-commercial Sector in Namangan Region

The development stages of the non-commercial sector in Namangan Region interrelate with the development stages of society and can be subdivided into the Soviet-era stage and the stage of sovereign state.

From the Soviet period of history, Namangan region, together with other regions of the Republic, inherited NGOs which can be referred to as “organizations of the Soviet period”. During those years they were under strict political and ideological control and as the collateral elements of party and government structures, they did not play a significantly independent role. Some of these organizations have remained, acting under a different name but with few essential changes. They are as before “an appendage” of governmental structures and it is difficult to consider them as valid institutions of civil society. Scientific and technical organizations, cultural and historical, humanitarian, professional, athletic and sport, social organizations and organizations by interests, can be identified among them.

NGOs from the period after independence can be differentiated by the nature of their formation, i.e. established “from above” on the initiative of the government and “from below” on the initiative of citizens.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

The overall list of NGOs presented by the regional Department of Justice does not indicate organizations of the second category, i.e. established as a result of initiatives by citizens for social problem solving, protection and promotion of interests of their target groups (handicapped persons, people at risk, vulnerable population and other social groups). The list mentions only “nongovernmental organizations of Soviet period”, as well as organizations established as a result of the initiatives of various public institutions.

Diagram 1.1

Distribution of NGOs in Namangan Region by Legal Organizational Form and Structure in accordance with the Legislation (by numbers)

According to data from the Center for Support of Civil Society (CSCS), there are little more than 30\(^3\) NGOs established “from below” based on citizens’ initiatives.

The leaders of all types of NGOs in Namangan region were interviewed during this study: including “organizations of Soviet period” established due to the initiatives of public institutions and citizens.

In Namangan, as well as in other regions of the Republic, there are significant territorial differences in the strength of the non-commercial sector. The majority of NGOs are located in the administrative center, with the remainder dispersed in the towns of the region and very few performing their activities in rural areas.

Bar chart 1.5

Regions covered by the activity of NGOs
(% of total number of interviewed NGOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Coverage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namangan City</td>
<td>80,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uychinsk</td>
<td>6,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartak</td>
<td>3,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangikurgan</td>
<td>3,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namangan</td>
<td>3,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turakurgan</td>
<td>3,3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^3\) The matter concerns those organizations, which are in a database of Namangan CSCS.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

In small towns and districts of the region, the non-commercial sector is represented by urban/rural branches of the Republican unions of handicapped persons, war and labor veterans, Chernobyl victims, youth organizations, a few child institutions and sports clubs.

Organizations existing for more than five years (46.7 percent) outnumber others interviewed for the study. A further 23.3 percent have existed for between three to five years; and 26.7 percent were created during the last three years. A further 3.3 percent were established during the period of up to one year.

**Diagram 1.2**

**Distribution of NGOs by the years of operation from the date of registration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Operation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>up to 1 year</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 1 to 3 years</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than 5 years</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Namangan Region most NGOs are actually registered as “nongovernmental organizations” (73.3%) in the Department of Justice, whilst other legal-organizational forms are “public fund” (13.3 percent) and “institution” (10.0 percent).

The study showed weak awareness amongst the population on NGOs’ activity. More than half of those interviewed (59.4 percent) have a complete lack of information regarding this sector. Only 31.8 percent are aware of the activity of NGOs in the Region and 8.8 percent had heard about them in general. Ordinary residents are less informed of the activity of NGOs (80 percent lack information) compared to the leaders of CBOs (30 percent).

Those respondents, who are aware of or have heard of NGOs or non-commercial organization, mainly mentioned:

- Handicapped Persons Society (23.2%)
- “Nuroniy” Fund (21.7%)
- “Kamolot” Public Youth Movement (15.9%)
- “Soglom Avlod Uchun” Fund (15.9%)
- “Mahallya” Fund (14.5%)
- Red Crescent Society (18.8%)
- Afghan People Society (5.8%)
- Blind People Society (4.5%)
- Homeowners associations (8.7%)
- Political parties (4.4%)

Women’s Committee, trade unions, HIV Center, Football Federation, Chernobyl Victims Society, “Oltin Meros” Fund, Chamber of Trade and Industry and religious organizations were also mentioned.
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

In general, at the current stage of development of the third sector, the non-commercial organizations carefully consider their image, applying different methods of representing this, such as: information distribution to the population; arrangement of campaigns for promotion their values; and involvement of various groups of the population in their activities.

Chapter 4. Local Self-Governing Bodies

The fundamentals of local self-government are established in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Self-governing bodies in mahallyas of cities, villages and kishlaks, are citizens’ assemblies, which elect a chairman of Council (aksakal) and his counselors for two-and-a-half years. The election procedure, activity arrangement and measure of authority of self-governing bodies are regulated by the Law “On self-governing institutions”. To execute decisions of citizens’ assemblies and performance of the activities of self-governing bodies during the period between the conferences of citizens, Kengash (Council) of the conference is formed and attended by the Chairman of citizens’ assemblies, his counselors, Chairmen of Commissions for main directions of the activity of citizens’ assembly and executive secretary.

Organizational Structure of Citizens’ Assembly
(villages, kishlaks and auls, together with mahallyas of cities and auls)
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

Currently, local self-governing bodies perform many social functions that both traditionally existed in mahallyas or were newly assigned to mahallyas by the government. The overwhelming majority of study respondents, both from amongst leaders of CSOs and ordinary residents (61.5 percent), believe that the main function of citizens’ assemblies is to solve community problems jointly with residents. The remainder of respondents thought that assemblies are intended to keep order in the mahalla (17.5 percent), to put government decisions into practice locally (12.5 percent) or to govern the community (7.0 percent).

*Volunteer work
**Paid work
***Created in villages, kishlaks and auls of difficult access and located in remote areas from district center
****Commissions for main activities of citizens’ assemblies can be changed in their activities and number

### Table 1.5

What are the main functions you believe belong to Mahallya Committees?
(\% of total number of interviewed people of every group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewed Groups</th>
<th>Jointly with residents to solve community</th>
<th>Govern the community</th>
<th>To put locally into practice the decisions adopted by the</th>
<th>To keep order</th>
<th>Don’t know/no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interviewed Groups</strong></td>
<td><strong>Answers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Interviewed Groups</strong></td>
<td><strong>Answers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Interviewed Groups</strong></td>
<td><strong>Answers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>problems</th>
<th>government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NGO</strong></td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahallya Committee</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners Associations</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A significant factor, which determines the principle of fair government and protection of the rights and interests of the community members, is the presence of a democratic procedure for formation of community governing bodies. Openness and the voluntary participation of the majority in the election process of local self-governing bodies, is a guarantee of their legitimacy and ensures trust in their activities from all strata of the population.

According to existing legislation, election of the Chairmen of citizens’ assemblies is performed by direct secret voting, however, in the opinion of most leaders of CSOs and community members (55.0 percent), in practise this process is performed indirectly via a representative, who was informally entrusted with powers to make decisions on behalf of residents. This is particularly felt by leaders of CBOs (75.7 percent). Amongst ordinary residents, 45 percent believed that elections in their mahallya were performed by direct voting, whilst almost the same proportion (44 percent) thought that elections were conducted via representatives. In spite of this, the majority of residents and representatives of CSOs (61.5 percent) had no doubts about the legitimacy of local self-governing bodies, as they were convinced that the majority of residents (more than 50 percent) participated in elections of governing bodies of their mahallya.

From the study, indices were estimated to assess the impact of different social groups, as well as local authorities, on the process of forming the management of citizens’ assemblies. Bar chart 1.6., below, shows that the patriarchs of communities, men and the khokimiyat, have a greater influence. Such groups as businessmen, wealthy people, youth and women have less impact.

*Bar chart 1.6*

**Impact of Some Social Groups and Entities on Elections of Management of Local Self-Governing Bodies**

(in the opinion of the leaders of CSOs and community residents)
Thus, despite changes in society caused by the impact of the worldwide globalization process, traditional social aims, values and respectful attitudes towards community elders and educated persons’ opinions, are maintained in the community. At the same time, the influence of khokimiyat is explained not only by traditional respect to public agents, but also by the availability of financial and material support from public agencies.

The social status of women remains traditionally low, particularly in rural communities. On the one part, people as they seem to accept “game” directives, express their consent with officially declared information, but for many a thesis on complete equality of women’s rights remained abstract. Moreover, in reply to a straightforward question “Do you think women should have an absolutely equal vote, the same as men, in problem-solving for your organization (mahallya, association)?” a significant majority of respondents answered in the affirmative. But as soon as respondents start applying this idea in such social institutions as the family, a truer attitude towards a woman’s role becomes apparent: one which appears through a traditional understanding of functionally fixed men’s and women’s responsibilities (husband – bread-winner and wife – housewife), by recognition of an unconditional priority of men in matters of family leadership.

Table 1.6

Up to what extent do you agree with the below mentioned statements?
(% of total number of interviewed people)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answers</th>
<th>Fully agree</th>
<th>Partially agree</th>
<th>Do not agree</th>
<th>Don’t know/no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Woman’s main responsibility is household, and man’s is to earn a living</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If wife holds an executive position, then husband should help her and undertake household chores</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>39.5</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband is the head of family, everything he said must be done by wife and children</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man is a better leader than a woman</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today women and men have equal rights</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the data in Table 1.6 is carefully analyzed, the conclusion can be made, that Uzbekistan’s communities are currently undergoing a process of transformation from the traditional type of family into a non-traditional one. It is a type of family, which in sociology, is usually defined as exploiting, because along with the right of equal participation in social labor, women acquire an “exclusive” right of housewifery.

In general, in the structure of civil society of Namangan region, as the results of the study show, all the main components are available: NGOs, political parties, CBOs, etc. However, it is still too early to speak about them as developed social institutions, particularly, NGOs (especially with respect to the organizations established “from below”). Local self-governing bodies can be considered as the most substantial in the structure of civil society. They
Section 1. Civil Society Organizations in Namangan Region

undertake the solving of specific problems of their community, forming its values, by working locally. Development of other institutions, such as parties and movements, trade unions and mass media, follow stages and the process of their institutionalization is influenced more by a common Republican situation than by the situation in any specific region.
Section 2. Assessment of Current Capacity of CSOs

One of the important aspects, which had been considered during the study, was the possession of a sound material and technical basis, together with personnel, capable of coping with the tasks of organization professionally, by NGOs and CBOs. An analysis of the capacity of organizations suggests that there is the possibility to assess capabilities of efficient interaction with the external environment: ability and capability to competently plan and perform its activity, establish contacts with other CSOs, public institutions and business sector, fundraising skills.

Chapter 1. Personnel Capacity of CSOs

Availability of competent, highly professional personnel, committed to the activities of CSOs, is a main source of financial, informational, material and technical resources.

Any assessment of the main characteristics of human resources of CSOs must start with their leaders, as the success of an organization depends upon strong and active management. In the main, CSO leaders have higher (30.5 percent), secondary (25.5 percent) and technical secondary (25.0 percent) education. NGOs are distinguished under this characteristic, with more leaders with not only higher education (73.3 percent), but with an academic degree (6.7 percent) as well.

Almost half (48.3 percent) of Chairmen of citizens’ assemblies have secondary technical education, whilst one-in-four (25.9 percent) have higher education. The majority of graduates from higher education institutions are in Namangan City (44.4 percent). Leaders of homeowners associations also have secondary and higher education (33.3 percent for each).

In all three types of CSOs considered, NGOs, citizens’ community and homeowners associations, there are more women leaders with higher education, than men (80.0 percent, 50.0 percent and 33.3 percent respectively). If women leaders are considered in general, their number is higher amongst NGOs. NGOs mainly account for young personnel.

Bar chart 2.1
Distribution of CSO leaders by sex/age criteria
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSO)
Male leaders of self-governing bodies are more or less evenly distributed within age groups: 28.8 percent in the 40-49 range, 34.6 percent in the 50-59 and 23.1 percent in the 60-69, whilst an overwhelming majority of women leaders are in the 50 to 59 age range (83.3 percent).

One-in-two NGO leaders (50%) have work experience in NGOs of more than five years and 30 percent from three to five years. The majority of representatives of non-commercial organizations in the third sector, come from public institutions or public authorities (76.7 percent and 10.0 percent respectively). 6.7 percent of respondents have work experience in the business sector and an additional 3.3 percent did not work or study anywhere else before.

Personnel levels in CSOs are low, with most having from 1 to 4 people.

The results of the study show that only the personnel of self-governing bodies (100%) receive salaries regularly, whilst only half of the NGOs (50%) and one-quarter of homeowners associations (25%) are able to pay for the work of their employees. The personnel of almost one-third of NGOs and 41.7 percent of homeowners associations work without regular payment.

Leaders of CSOs critically assess the qualification of their employees. Only 13 percent of the total number of interviewed people, consider their employees to be good professionals, who do not need to be trained with additional knowledge or skills. In the opinion of leaders of NGOs, citizens’ assemblies and homeowners associations, their employees need computer work skills and special knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NGOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal skills</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer literacy</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.1

What do you believe are the additional knowledge and skills the employees of your organization need to acquire?

( % of total number of interviewed people of every group)
Section 3 Assessment of Operation of CSO in the External Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special knowledge</th>
<th>16.7</th>
<th>25.9</th>
<th>66.7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal training</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/no answer</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Very few leaders mentioned the requirement in acquiring additional knowledge on marketing (3 percent of those interviewed) and management (10 percent). Moreover, it was revealed that only 63 percent of CSOs developed (NGOs - 83.3 percent, citizens’ assemblies – 65.5 percent, homeowners associations – 0 percent) and 55 percent operated (NGOs – 56.7 percent, citizens’ assemblies – 65.5 percent, homeowners associations – 0 percent) action plans for their organizations.

Many organizations (70 percent of CSOs) recruit people working on a voluntary basis to assist their staff members. Volunteers are actively engaged in the work of citizens’ self-governing bodies (85.5 percent), especially in Mingbulak (100 percent), Kasansai (88.9 percent) and Chartak (87.5 percent) districts.

In non-commercial organizations, volunteers’ support is crucial to CSOs, as in most cases, they are people who particularly concerned about and committed to rendering services to local communities and giving up their private time for that. There are even organizations, which consist entirely of volunteers. In total 70 percent of NGOs in the region rely on volunteers’ assistance in their activities.

The only type of CSO which does not count on volunteers’ assistance are homeowners associations.

![Bar chart 2.3](image)

How many volunteers does your organization have?
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of NGOs and citizens’ assemblies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>from 1 to 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 4 to 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 7 to 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 11 to 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>from 16 to 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more than 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 2. Equipment and Technical (asset) Base. Sources of Financing

Equipment and technical base. In the 21st century, the century of developed informational technologies, it is considered difficult to be a successful organization without the necessary
technical hardware. The majority of organizations which participated in the study have a weak office equipment base.

Table 2.2
What does your organization have from the items mentioned below?
(% of total number of interviewed people of every group)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of equipment</th>
<th>Available</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
<th>Mahallya committees</th>
<th>Homeowners associations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy machine</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scanner</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office furniture (contemporary-style)</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.2 shows that one-third and more of NGOs do have sufficient office equipment (computers, printers, fax, and copy machine). Of these, 13.4 percent possess 2 to 4 pieces of equipment and 9.9 percent possess between 5 and 7 pieces. At the same time, 43.3 percent of NGO leaders said that while undertaking the tasks of their organization, they often have to employ their staff for free and use employees’ private equipment and dwellings.

Unlike NGOs and homeowners associations, most self-governing bodies (84.5 percent) have their own workroom. An overwhelming majority of homeowners associations (91.7 percent) have to rent an office.

Bar chart 2.4
Number of organizations possessing own premises (office)
(% of total interviewed people of every group)

Main financing sources. Organization budget is formed from various sources: membership fees, donations of commercial companies, funds received as a result of own economic activity, state financing and funds received from different international organizations.
NGOs have the most diversified financing sources consisting mainly of membership fees and grant financing from international organizations. However, not all organizations are open to providing detailed information on sources of financial inflows, simply indicating which source is considered the main one and which is not.

Rendering of paid services as a key factor of financial stability of the organization is a main source of income for 20 percent of NGOs. 56.6% of non-commercial organizations, collecting membership fees, out of them for 33.3% it is a main financing source.

Assistance from business entities is the main source of income for 10 percent NGOs out of a total of 36.7 percent. The share of organizations, which have a priority of state financing and orders, is even less: only 3.3 percent out of 16.6 percent.

There was a failure in finding common data on NGO budgets and their spending of funds in the social sphere. As far as it is known, there has not been any study on financing sources of NGOs, neither in Namangan Region, nor in the Republic as a whole during recent years.

Chapter 3. Role of International Organizations in the Development of CSOs

There are currently a considerable number of foreign NGOs and funds registered in the Republic. Their activities are aimed at providing support to local NGOs and self-governing bodies, by increasing their organizational capacity through seminars, training, “round tables”, consultations, etc. Organizations include Counterpart International, Mercy Corps, Conrad Adenauer Fund and others.

The study shows that ordinary community members have little knowledge about the activities of these organizations in the region. Leaders of CSOs showed greater awareness of the matter.
Do you know anything about the activity of international NGOs in your Region? (% of total number of interviewed people of all groups of respondents)

![Bar chart]

Even well-informed residents named mainly foreign commercial companies, when asked to list NGOs they knew of.

Among leaders of CSOs, the representatives from NGOs (86.7 percent) were better informed than others on the work of foreign NGOs, particularly as they were the most likely category of CSO to be more actively involved in conducting training or “round tables” (and were applying to international funds for financial aid to a greater extent than other types of CSOs). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with 53.9 percent recognition; Mercy Corps with 46.2 percent; and IREX, with 11.6 percent, were the most widely known.

More than half of chairmen of self-governing bodies (51.7 percent) were aware of the work of international organizations in the Region. They also named UNDP (33.3 percent) and Mercy Corps (26.7 percent as the most familiar). Almost one-third (30 percent) of respondents named local NGOs (as those were the organizations that had been implementing the projects within the framework of international programmes).

All leaders of homeowners associations were aware of the activity of international organizations (and they made up one-third of the total number of interviewed people of that group). The project of Urban Institute, “Development of Local Government in Central Asia” implemented in the Region was mentioned.

During the study, indices reflecting the assistance of international organizations in the development of civil society in the region were estimated. Bar chart 2.7 below shows how leaders of NGOs and citizens’ assemblies evaluate aid provided by international organizations, highly.

**Bar chart 2.7**

Index of assistance of international organizations in the development of civil society in the Region (in the opinion of the leaders of CSOs)
Section 3. Assessment of the Operation of CSOs in the External Environment

The ability of the third sector to interact with the other two sectors of society; use mass media for formation of public opinion; and its knowledge and competent practice of the legislation which regulates its activity, are the main factors providing CSOs with success in promoting their mission and achieving their goals. Evaluation of these factors was made, based on analysis of the answers of the leaders of citizens’ assemblies, homeowners associations and NGOs, who participated in the interviews.

Chapter 1. Assessment of Legal Awareness and Operational Activity of CSO

The leaders of citizens’ assemblies, homeowners associations and NGOs, in reply to a question regarding legislation regulating the activity of their organizations, named the Laws “On Nongovernmental Organizations”, “On Nongovernmental Nonprofit Organizations”, “On Social Funds”, “On Self-Governing Institutions” and “On Homeowners Associations”, depending on their type of organization. However, quite a number of those (mainly chairmen of self-governing bodies) believed that their activity was first of all, regulated by decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (13 percent) and resolutions of the local executive authorities (5 percent).

During the study, indices were estimated for a correspondence between the laws and bylaws regulating the activity of CSOs, as well as their enforcement by public supervision authorities. Table 4.1 shows that leaders of CSOs give a low evaluation of the existing order of state control over the activity of their organizations.

Table 4.1

Indices of contradiction of by-laws with existing laws
(in the opinion of the leaders of CSOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No conflict between the laws and sub-legal acts</th>
<th>The laws regulating the activity of our organization are clear and do not contradict each other</th>
<th>Upon regulation of the activity of our organizations, state supervision authorities first of all follow the laws, and not the resolutions of local authorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>-0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assemblies</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowners Associations</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Index</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nevertheless the majority of respondents believes that there is a requirement to pass the new laws, which could create a more favorable legal environment, but they disagree with what these new laws or amendments and supplements to the existing laws should be.
Bar chart 4.1

Is there a requirement to adopt the new laws, which could create a more favorable environment for the activity of your organization? (% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

The results of the interview show that half of the leaders of local self-governing bodies (51.3 percent) and homeowners associations (50 percent) consider it necessary to adopt new laws, which would be aimed at strengthening the Mahallya Committee role.

Legal priorities of the representatives of NGOs are shown in Bar chart 4.2.

Bar chart 4.2

Which new laws or amendments to the already existing ones would create a more favorable legal environment for the activity of your organization? (% of total number of responded leaders of NGOs)

The majority of non-commercial organizations (80.0 percent) implementing their activities in the sphere of education and science and more than one-third (37.5 percent) of those working in the sphere of social protection, consider it necessary to revise NGO registration procedure, as well as to give them a greater freedom of activity.

However, though two-thirds of the leaders of citizens’ assemblies and NGOs realize there is a requirement for revision of legislation regulating activity of their organizations, only 29.3 percent and 36.7 percent of their total number respectively, were making any attempt towards that. The most active ones were citizens’ assemblies of Turakurgan District (60 percent) and the least active ones were self-governing bodies of Namangan City (11.1 percent)
**Table 4.2**

Did your organization take any legal initiatives?
(% of total number of responded leaders of citizens’ assemblies)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts of Interview</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know/no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Namangan City</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>88.9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasansai</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mingbulak</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>33.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namangan</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turakurgan</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uychi</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chartak</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, upon more careful consideration of the initiatives the leaders of self-governing bodies were referring to, it was discovered that they were not really of a lawmaking nature. Their initiatives focused upon such proposals as “job security to mahallya jobless people”, “provision of finances to their settlement account”, “reduction of a number of wedding ceremonies” and the situation concerning “the wheat problem”.

Respondents also showed little awareness of lawmaking initiatives of other CSOs operating in Namangan Region.

**Diagram 4.1**

*Do you know any initiatives taken by NGOs, mahallya committees or homeowners associations to amend the existing legislation?*

(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

Only 20 percent of NGO leaders knew about the initiatives of CSOs, whilst the leaders of local self-governing bodies and homeowners associations are even less aware (13.8 percent and 8.3 percent respectively).

The initiatives of NGOs were aimed at improving the business environment, as well as for the directions of the organization’s activities. They generally addressed their proposals to well-known city NGOs or prepared the project within the framework of the grant program of an international organization. There was only one organization which applied to the Committee of Legislative House of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Democratic Institutions, Nongovernmental Organizations and Self-Governing Bodies.

Bar chart 4.3. shows the results of the initiatives of CSOs.
What was the result of those initiatives, were such initiatives accepted for review and as a result, was the Law amended?

(% of total number of responded leaders of CSOs)

- They were accepted for review and approved: 3.3
- They were accepted for review and some of them were approved: 39.4
- They were accepted for review but none of them was approved: 24.2
- Were declined and not reviewed: 9.1
- Don't know/no answer: 24.2

Chapter 2. Assessment of Cross-Sectoral Interaction

An agreement between the state, commercial and NGOs allows consolidation of intellectual capacity, human and material and technical resources, for a particular social problem. Among representatives of CSOs who participated in the study, there were none who did not realize a requirement to strengthen and develop social partnership. This, in the opinion of CSO leaders, would contribute to a growth in trust (63 percent), together with increased efficiency and saving of management expenses (37 percent).

The greatest effect of cross-sectoral interaction is expected in such fields as enhancement of living standards of the population (39 percent), social development (24 percent), securing of civil rights (7 percent) and development of education and science (6 percent).

Interaction with public authorities. According to the experience of many countries, a developed third sector is a great supplement to an official social policy. The activities of NGOs are not aimed at creating competition to the government, but complementing services for mutual benefit. The greatest impact is expected in those cases, when local authorities already have a strategy of interactions for solving societies’ social problems.

However, little more than a half of interviewed CSO leaders (52 percent) believe that some strategy of local authorities aimed at establishing partnership relations with the third sector, actually exists.

The extent of readiness amongst different branches of government to solve social problems jointly was also evaluated. CSO leaders consider that executive authorities show a greater tendency to cooperate with the third sector other than representative authorities.
Table 4.3
To what extent do you think the listed structures are ready to solve social problems of the society jointly with NGOs?
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Absolutely ready</th>
<th>Mainly ready</th>
<th>Partially ready</th>
<th>Mainly not ready</th>
<th>Not ready</th>
<th>Don’t know/no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council of Regional Deputies</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of District Deputies</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Khokimiyat</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City, District Khokimiyat</td>
<td>48.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of organizations (70 percent) carry out their activities in constant partnership with local authorities. A generalized index of cooperation experience of CSOs is 0.48. By the types of organizations it is: NGOs = 0.43 and CBOs = 0.55.

There were no representatives of citizens’ assemblies among those organizations which weakly interact with city and district khokimiyats. Such is explained by local self-governing bodies as a main intermediary of state policy in the provinces, territorial communities, being simply unable to perform their activity without interaction with local authorities.

Of the 12 percent of organizations which seldom work in partnership with public authorities, more than a half (58 percent) of them are homeowners associations and 42.0 percent, NGOs.

The main reasons defined by the leaders of these organizations are: “lack of need” (33.3 percent); “representatives of local authorities do not treat their organizations seriously” (33.3 percent); “lack of interaction skills with public servants” (16.7 percent) and “anxiety that the officials will hinder their activity” (16.7 percent).

The majority of interviewed representatives of CSOs (72.0 percent) are aware of various mechanisms for realization of social partnership with public authorities. Representatives of NGOs (86.7 percent) have the greater awareness of this matter, with those from CBOs (65.8 percent), also showing awareness.

The conducting of citizens’ assemblies together with local authorities, conclusion of contracts, allocation of grants in order to solve any concrete social problems, meetings, dialogues, and “round tables” of public servants with third sector representatives are mechanisms of social partnership, which were mentioned during the study.

Bar chart 4.4
What mechanisms of social partnership between NGOs (citizens’ assemblies, homeowners associations) and public authorities do you know?
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)
Section 3 Assessment of Operation of CSO in the External Environment

Representatives of NGOs more widely referred to “round tables” (64.3 percent), whilst leaders of local self-governing bodies, to conducting citizens’ assemblies with the representatives of public authorities (56.5 percent). Chairmen of citizens’ assemblies of Kasansai District showed less awareness of the existing mechanisms of social partnership, and 40 percent of them faced difficulty in answering the question.

**Interaction with commercial sector.** One of the important participants of social policy has been recognized to be a sector that has funds and where there are not only active and business people working, but people who understand the necessity to help the vulnerable population. Moreover, in many countries, the majority of commercial companies realize that social activity is an integral part of business strategy, no less important than any other management aspect, and one which builds up their reputation in society and consequently contributes to the level of profit earning.

However, as the results of the study show, interaction between CSOs of Namangan and the commercial sector, for solving social problems, was low. In the opinion of CSO leaders, the CSO index of the degree of interaction of their organizations with business structures, was 0.24.

**Assessment index of cooperation degree with commercial sector**
(in the opinion of the leaders of citizens’ assemblies, homeowners associations and NGOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>INDEX VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaders of NGOs</td>
<td>- 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaders of CBOs</td>
<td>- 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total index</td>
<td>- 0.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chairmen of citizens’ assemblies of Chartak District (-0.63) and Namangan City (-0.83) gave the most negative evaluation of the development of partnership relations with the business sector.

The lack of interaction can be partly explained by the absence of laws, which would stimulate commercial organizations to cooperate with CSOs. Another obstacle to social partnership is the negative attitude on the part of businessmen towards the existing policy of “charitable” contributions to various funds, when they perform payments by orders of some local officials.
Another factor is the distrust some businessmen feel towards NGOs. Thus, third sector organizations must start demonstrating a “transparency” in their activities, together with professionalism and an ability to realize projects in cooperation with various partners.

Chapter 3. Identification of Mass Media as an Instrument for Informational Support on Social Partnership

The most important factor in supporting and stimulating social partnership, is the availability of an informational component, to accompany the interaction of nongovernmental and public institutions, aimed at improving social situations in the region.

During the study, in general, the respondents positively evaluated the readiness of the mass media (television, radio and press) to provide support to NGOs and CBOs in solving social problems.

Table 4.3
To what extent is the mass media ready to solve social problems of society together with NGOs/CBOs?
What is your opinion?
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Absolutely ready</th>
<th>Mainly ready</th>
<th>Partially ready</th>
<th>Mainly not ready</th>
<th>Not ready</th>
<th>Don’t know/no answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Representatives from NGOs give a higher evaluation of mass media readiness to cooperate, in comparison with leaders of CBOs. If leaders of citizens’ assemblies have real support from the state, including financial support, nongovernmental organizations, which are non-commercial and nonprofit organizations, have to think of financial inflow for their activity – if there are funds, there is a possibility of solving social problems. Many NGO leaders who participated in the study understand that it is impossible to undertake fundraising activities without partnership with the mass media. Almost half of them (46.7 percent) have established ongoing relationships with journalists, whilst 39 percent cooperate with the mass media on an irregular basis. Among CBO leaders the figures are 27.1 percent and 42.9 percent respectively.
Section 3 Assessment of Operation of CSO in the External Environment

Leaders of citizens’ assemblies in Namangan District had the strongest relationship with the mass media (80 percent had an ongoing relationship), followed by the districts of Chartak (50 percent), Turakurgan (40 percent), Kasansai and Mingbulak (33.3 percent each). CBO leaders in Uychin District (15.4 percent) and Namangan City (11.1 percent) place less emphasis on the establishment of relationships with journalists.

Two-out-of-three (66.7 percent) women chairmen of local self-governing bodies always invite the same journalists to their activities. Among male chairmen the figure is only 28.8 percent. However, in the opinion of representatives from CSOs, the mass media does not sufficiently cover the problems that the organizations are involved with. When it does, television provides the highest coverage, with some coverage from radio and press.

How frequently does the mass media cover the problems that NGOs/CBOs are trying to tackle?
(% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

Information channels mentioned by CSO leaders include NTV (Namangan Television); “Namangan Khaqiqati” and “Ayol va Jamiyat” Newspapers; and “Yoshlar”, “Vodiy Sadosi”, “Oltyn Zamin” Radio Stations.
At the same time, leaders of citizens’ assemblies more often read periodicals of the “Mahallya” Fund, as well as regional newspapers such as “Chortok Khaqiqati”, “Uychinoma”, “Kosonsoinoma”, “Davr” and “Istiqlol”.

Representatives of NGOs prefer republican television channel UzTV1, together with central newspapers “Uzbekiston Ovozi”, “Narodnoe Slovo”, “Pravda Vostoka”, “Uchitel Uzbekistana”, “Shifokor va Hayot”, “Qishloq Khaqiqati” and “Uzbekiston Adabiyot va San’ati”.

Overall, television is considered by CSO representatives to be the most efficient source of information. This is supported by 66.7 percent of NGO leaders and 88.6 percent by CBO leaders.

**Bar chart 4.6**

**What kinds of mass media are the most efficient in solving problems your organization is working on?**

(\% of total number of interviewed leaders of CSOs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media</th>
<th>CBOs</th>
<th>NGOs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know/no answer</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter 4. **Main Initiatives and Prospects of Civil Society Organizations**

An overwhelming majority of NGOs (96.7 percent) which participated in the study perform their activities in accordance with their stated missions, objectives and tasks set.

The activity of NGOs in Namangan is mainly focused on solving social problems and serving the needs of the most vulnerable population, together with activities in the fields of education and science and the protection of rights. There are fewer organizations working in the fields of ecology, healthcare, culture and sport and micro-financing.

**Bar chart 4.7**

**Activity sectors of NGOs which participated in the interview**

(\% of total number of interviewed leaders of NGOs)
NGOs of Namangan are engaged in solving social problems, enhancing living standards and providing legal and economic support to different groups of the population.

Bar chart 4.8 shows that the community believes the population categories of children, youth and handicapped persons are the most vulnerable, whilst such groups as labor migrants, men in crisis situations and members of risk-groups receive little attention from NGOs.

The organizations involved in the study provide services such as study courses, training (36.7 percent), legal aid (20.0 percent), welfare (20.0 percent) and various consultations (13.3 percent), to their target groups. No organization was engaged in the provision of psychological services and rehabilitation work.

Although the majority of NGOs (62 percent) perform their activities in urban and rural territorial communities, the assessment index of interaction with other NGOs and local self-governing bodies is extremely low.
There are many problem areas in which NGO and citizens’ assemblies could cooperate, such as: solving problems concerning the infrastructure of mahallyas (roads, gas, potable and irrigation water); unemployment; use of drugs; or illness and disease.

In general, despite the many difficulties faced by organizations participating in the study, for example, lack of finances (20 percent), deficiency of premises (11 percent) and equipment (16 percent), they face the future optimistically. Leaders of NGOs, citizens’ communities and homeowners associations evaluate highly the prospects for their organizations (69 percent) and for social society development in Namangan Region (53 percent).
Conclusion

The implemented review of civil society structure in Namangan Region and the condition and main directions of activity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), together with their level of interaction with public institutions, allows the following conclusions to be drawn:

The present-day structure of civil society consists of political parties, trade unions, NGOs, CBOs and the mass media.

All five officially registered political parties of Uzbekistan perform their activity in the Region. A serious disadvantage for all parties is their poor interaction with other institutions of civil society. However, the residents of Namangan region realize the need for political parties in social development and in their understanding, political parties are integral institutions of civil society. The People’s Democratic Party (PDPU) is the major party and it has a certain authority in communities.

The non-commercial sector of the region can be classified into three categories, based upon origin: organizations formed during the Soviet period of development; organizations created during the independence period on the initiative of different public institutions; and organizations created as a result of the activity of the citizens themselves, aimed at solving social problems and protection and promotion of their own interests. The majority of NGOs in the region belong to the first two categories.

The population is poorly informed about the activity of NGOs operating in the region. Those who are aware of NGO activities know only the organizations formed on the initiative of public institutions. The ‘third sector’ does not play a major role in providing social services to the population, at least not to an extent noticeable to the community. This causes financial instability, as the number of self-financing NGOs is small. Their financial basis is mainly based on grant aid from international funds.

Currently, the third sector as a social institution is in the stage of development and formation. This is characterized by the number of NGOs, corresponding legislative base, determining the procedures of registration and forms of activity, variety of activity directions, relative stability of some nongovernmental organizations, including organizational and financial stability, place and role in the structure of public relations, level of interaction with government, business sector and their international acknowledgement.

CBOs are represented mainly by mahallya, rural and village citizens’ assemblies and homeowners associations. There is little information about initiative groups functioning on the territory of the Region.

Homeowners associations are a relatively recent type of non-commercial organization. They are predominantly located in the cities and lack sufficient material and technical and human resource capacity. Being isolated, they interact poorly with the different sectors of civil society in the region.

Self-governing bodies are the major and most stable part of civil society. They enjoy the support of both public agencies at different levels and the trust of the majority of the population.
Conclusion

The traditional respectful attitude towards elderly people and educated people is maintained in the communities. At the same time, the social status of women remains low.

CSOs express a commitment to acquiring new knowledge and additional skills, which is evidence of their growing professionalism. However, the leaders of organizations are not always able to determine their priorities: thus, in spite of the fact that many organizations do not have strategic and action plans, few appeared to find the need to acquire management and marketing knowledge, as important.

A majority of CSO leaders recognized the importance of solving social problems in partnership with official structures. However, many of them do not believe that local authorities have a strategy aimed at establishing partnership relations with the public sector. The most commonly applied mechanisms of social partnership are “round tables” and joint conduction of citizens’ assemblies.

Social partnership with commercial sector organizations is weakly developed. This is caused by the lack of a legislative base aimed at encouraging businessmen to be involved in charity activity, as well as by the lack of trust of the majority of commercial structures towards NGOs and a view that the latter lack professionalism.

It does not worth even to mention established intra-sectorial interrelations. Such situation leads to ineffective activity. Therefore one of the main tasks of the leaders of NGOs, chairmen of local self-governing bodies and leaders of homeowners associations, is a search for common essential principals of their activity, together with consolidation of efforts of activists, scientists and leaders themselves to contribute to a culture of development of social society.

The majority of CSO representatives positively evaluate the readiness of the mass media (television, radio and press) to cooperate with NGOs/CBOs in solving social problems. At the same time they believe that journalists still do not adequately cover problems that the organizations are trying to tackle.

In general, based on the analysis of data obtained from interviews with representatives of CSOs of various types, as well as from the opinions of the majority of experts (participants of in-depth interviews), it can be established that it is still too early to speak about the presence of social society, however, the process of its formation has already started.