

The Johns Hopkins Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project

The JHU Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project (CNP) is a systematic effort to analyze the scope, structure, financing and role of the nonprofit sector in a cross-section of countries around the world. This project aims to improve our knowledge and understanding of this sector in order to provide a sounder basis for both public and private action towards it.



The CNP's objectives include:

- documenting the scope, structure, financing and role of the nonprofit sector in empirical terms;
- taking a comparative approach in order to explain the sector's differing character from place to place, and to identify the factors that encourage and/or hinder its development;
- evaluating the contributions and impact of the nonprofit sector on society as a whole;

- increasing the public awareness of the institutions which make up the nonprofit sector in different countries through a variety of publications;
- building local capacity to carry on this work into the future.

The project work began in 1990 in 13 countries. Today, the work extends into over 40 countries in all regions of the world.

CONTACT

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The Civil Society & Governance Programme

Carried out by the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Sussex, this 3 year research programme, which began in 1998, is examining the interplay between civil society and governments in 22 different countries spanning Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the United States.

The project has 3 main objectives:

- to achieve a clearer understanding of the character and functioning of civil society in both analytical and practical terms;
- to look at the role civil society organizations play in enhancing or detracting from the quality of political life and governance in different societies;
- to develop practical measures which can strengthen civil society and enhance its impact as an agent for improving governance.



The project began by profiling civil society in each country under consideration, including the role it plays in relation to the government and the government's posture towards it. This includes looking at the social, economic and political contexts, and civil society's promise and limitations for fostering improved governance. Specific attention is being given to civil society's present and potential roles in tackling poverty and promoting greater equality.

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Civil Society In Central Asia

Since the sudden independence of many Central Asian Republics in the early 1990s, there has been a concerted effort to help emerge and to strengthen civil society structures in these countries.

INTRAC is conducting a 3 year research programme (beginning in late 2000) that hopes to strengthen INTRAC's current efforts of mapping, monitoring and analyzing the emergence of civil society in several Central Asia states, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



The purpose of the research is four fold:

CURRENT CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS

- to map, monitor and analyze the emergence of civil society in Central Asia over time in order to better understand the dynamics of civil society organizations in a series of transitional states;
- to increase INTRAC's understanding of the dynamics of civil society organizations in transitional states;
- to identify those factors that encourage/ constrain the development of civil society organizations in Central Asia;
- to begin the process of developing the institutional capacity of CSOs so that they might undertake policy related research, which would feed into and inform policy making.

The results of this research seek to feed directly and continually into on-going civil society development activities in the region.

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**The Measures Project:
Balancing the Scales**

In order to measure the impact of the third sector on society, in 1996 Independent Sector began its Measures Project. This project aims to build a body of knowledge about the roles and contributions of nonprofit institutions in the US.



A national panel of organizations was established in 1997-1998 through which changes in the sector will be tracked and measurement techniques evaluated. In 1998, the Measures Survey generated the first set of findings from panel members on the special roles of nonprofit organizations and religious congregations, engagement in civil society activities and accountability and evaluation. The findings from this initial survey will be made available in a forthcoming publication, *Balancing the Scales: The 1998 Measures Survey Final Report*.

CONTACT

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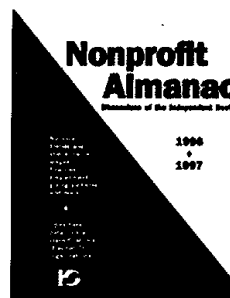
E-mail: info@independentsector.org

Web: www.independentsector.org/programs/research/almanac_overview.html

The Nonprofit Almanac

The Nonprofit Almanac series provides a statistical profile of the nonprofit sector and its place in the economy and society of the United States. The series demonstrates that the nonprofit organizations are a major force in the U.S. economy and illustrates the changes and importance of the sector over time.

The series addresses questions such as: what are the main sources of funding?; what are the average salaries for positions in the nonprofit sector?; what is the total number of nonprofits in the United States?; and how large is each sub-sector within the nonprofit community?.

**The 1998 NGO
Sustainability Index**

Beginning in 1997 with the first edition of the NGO Sustainability Index, this project has annually gauged the strength and overall viability of the NGO sector in the transition countries of Central

and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States.

The Index was developed by USAID's Bureau for Europe and the New Independent States together with the NGO community. The initial purpose of the Index was to meet the field's needs for qualitative indicators captured in a quantitative format in the area of NGO development. These indicators include: donor assistance; the role of government; the legal environment;



people participation; and post-donor presence. The insights gained help USAID staff and implementers make everyday project management decisions and assist them in designing longer term project development strategies.

The Index is a living document that now includes 23 countries and has become an important tool for uncovering areas of unmet needs.

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CURRENT CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS

Global Civil Society Yearbook

The Center for the Study of Global Governance and the Center for Civil Society at the London School of Economics are embarking on a research project that will produce a Global Civil Society Yearbook in September 2001.



The Yearbook aims to give voice to civil society in the process of globalization, to be a tool for participants in global civil society and to provide assistance in agenda setting.

Each year the Yearbook will contain a section on pertinent civil society issues, a section on where and how global civil society operates and interacts and a closing section containing a data profile, a global civil society index, a discussion of the 'legal year' and a chronology of important global events.

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Citizens & Governance: Civil Society in the New Millennium

The Commonwealth Foundations' project "Citizens and Governance" began in 1997. The project aims to analyze the factors that encourage and hinder citizens to take action on their concerns, to gain insight into the nature of civil society and to uncover the relationships between civil society, the state and the individual. The project hopes to identify ways to strengthen, promote and encourage initiatives undertaken by citizens to address issues and problems in their everyday lives.

Between 1997 and 1999, the study gathered, in 47 countries, the views of some 10,000 citizens (the majority of them 'ordinary' or 'invisible' citizens, whose voices are rarely heard) on the following three questions:

- What is your view of a 'good society'? To what extent does such a society exist today?
- In such a 'good society' what roles are best played by citizens and what roles are best played by state institutions and other sectors?
- What would enable citizens to play their roles more effectively in the

development of such a society?



Ultimately, the project will result in action that includes developing a realistic framework of priorities and recommendations for citizens, their various organizations, governments, the private sector and Commonwealth institutions.

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MEASUREMENT TOOLS & RESOURCES**United Way of America's Outcome Measurement Resource Network**

The United Way's online Outcome Measurement Resource Network provides organizations with outcome measurement resources and learnings. These include information, downloadable documents and links to other resources related to identification and measurement of programs-level and community-level outcomes.

CONTACT

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Grantmakers Evaluation Network

The Grantmakers Evaluation Network (GEN) is an organization for foundation staff and trustees who share interest in evaluation and philanthropy. GEN strives to strengthen foundations' ability to achieve desired outcomes by using evaluation to build a culture of

critical thinking and informed decision making.

Numerous online resources are available through the website, including the GEN newsletter, other useful publications and links to other organizations.

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PUBLICATIONS on EVALUATION

The Evaluation Clearinghouse

Put together by Government Performance Information Consultants (GPIC), the Evaluation Clearinghouse is a reference site for performance measurement and program evaluation information available on the internet. There are 3 main sections to this site:

- the evaluation clearinghouse offering evaluation information on a variety of topics including government, education, health, international issues and social services;
- the performance measurement section offering general information, examples of previous work and links to other relevant online documents;

- the think tanks section providing information and links to think tanks associated with evaluation and performance measurement.

The following is a brief list of publications. The website offers a downloadable version for most, or provides ordering information.

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Evaluation Handbook

January 1998

www.wkkf.org/resources/evaluation/default.htm

Evaluation in Foundations: The Unrealized Potential

by Patricia Patrizi & Bernard McMullan, December 1998

www.wkkf.org/resources/evaluation/default.htm

Achieving & Measuring Community Outcomes: Challenges, Issues, Some Approaches

www.national.unitedway.org/outcomes/publictns.htm#It0989

Community Status Reports, Targeted Community Interventions: Drawing a Distinction

www.national.unitedway.org/outcomes/publictns.htm#It0989

Measuring Program Outcomes: A Practical Approach

www.national.unitedway.org/outcomes/publictns.htm#It0989

Using Evaluation to Improve Grantmaker

by Doug Easterling & Nancy Baughman

www.hogg1.lac.utexas.edu/Gen/

A Review of Evaluation Resources For Nonprofit Organizations

By Sandra Bozzo & Michael Hall

www.ccp.ca/information/documents/gd44.htm

Learning What Works: Evaluating Complex Social Interventions

The Brookings Institute

www.brookings.org/gs/learning.htm

RELATED RESOURCES

Richard Holloway's Civil Society Toolbox

This Toolbox is a personal collection of documents and organizations that Richard Holloway has found useful, and a set of concepts that he

hopes will be a useful guide to the public's thinking about civil society.

The inventory provides the most comprehensive bibliography on documents dealing with civil society currently available. The compartments of the toolbox are as follows:

- the evolution of the term civil society;
- understanding civil society;
- understanding civil society organizations (CSOs);
- CSOs and government;
- CSOs and business;
- Financing CSOs;
- Managing CSOs;
- CSOs and the law;
- networking amongst and supporting CSOs;
- advocacy in CSOs;
- assessing CSOs;
- organizational development of CSOs;
- human resource development in CSOs;
- CSOs and participation;
- CSOs and democracy;
- International assistance to civil society

- Partnerships;
- Assessing the ongoing adventures of civil society.



Pact

CONTACT

Web: www.pactworld.org/toolbox.html

Institute for Development Research

The Institute for Development Research (IDR), is a nonprofit research, education and consulting organization dedicated to increasing the capacity of civil society groups to advance just and sustainable development. IDR identifies and documents emerging issues facing NGOs and other civil society organizations, collaborates with the actors involved to identify effective strategies and institutional innovations, and then disseminates knowledge and capacity building programs to advance civil society's impact on complex development problems.



IDR's services include financial stability analysis and action planning, education in the basic concepts, approaches and options for financial sustainability, program design and program implementation support.

The website contains information on their programs and research as well as online reports, publications and resource materials.

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Global Development Network

The Global Development Network (GDN) supports and links research and policy institutes involved in the field of development, and whose work is predicated on the notion that ideas matter. The initiative has proceeded on two fronts: knowledge generation and knowledge sharing.

The GDN offers research and policy institutes and existing networks around the world a series of workshops, networking opportunities; research grant competitions; training opportunities; and other services to improve research

skills, business practices, and improved connectivity with sources of knowledge.

The website offers information on all of the GDN's programs and current activities, and provides a number of online discussion groups as well as an online newsletter.

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International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR)

ISTR is a major international association promoting research and education in the fields of philanthropy, civil society and the nonprofit sector. ISTR reflects the growing worldwide interest in Third Sector research and provides a permanent forum for international research, while at the same time building a global scholarly community in this field.

The Society's main mission is to promote the study of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy within and across various academic disciplines

and national boundaries, to provide visibility and credibility to this area of study, and to enable scholars in this field to share research and enter into collaborative efforts. ISTR strives to broaden the participation of researchers in all parts of the world and in all disciplines, with special emphasis given to expand the number of Third Sector researchers in developing nations and Central and Eastern Europe.



The website provides information on membership, their international conferences, publications and their electronic discussion group. The site is also searchable on specific topics.

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PRIA

PRIA promotes people-centred development initiatives within the perspective of participatory research. Its mission is to strengthen a people-centred, holistic and comprehensive evolution of society characterised by freedom, justice, equity, and sustainability by: (1) creating opportunities for sharing, analysing and learning among formations of civil society; (2) engaging in independent and critical analysis of societal trends and issues, development policies and programmes; and (3) enabling dialogue across diverse perspectives, sectors and institutions.

Through its various centers, PRIA offers a range of workshop and training programmes on these issues. More information on workshops, publications, including the PRIA newsletter, can be found on its website.

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Email: info@pria.org
Web: www.pria.org

Social Watch

Social Watch is an international citizens' coalition monitoring the implementation of the world governments' com-

mitments to eradicate poverty and achieve gender equity.

The website provides news and relevant documents on social development around the world. Also included are reports on social development searchable by theme or country (with information on the evaluation process), reports on how the world is progressing toward social development and a search engine providing scores for social indicators in various countries and for various time periods.



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UNDP's Human Development Index

Following the UNDP, the world community uses the Human Development Index (HDI) to assess the level of human development in a variety of countries. The HDI consists of three components defining human development:

long life, educational level and the standard of living. This index enables nations and governments to assess the sta-



tus of human development, the nature of problems in human development, and to determine priorities for policy.

CONTACT

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Current and past Human Development Reports, which are, in part, generated from the HDI, are available on the website.

Transparency International

Transparency International (TI) is a civil society organization dedicated to curbing both international and national corruption.



Available on the website are links to the "On-line Source for Information and Research of Integrity Systems" (OSIRIS). This is one of the most comprehensive databases on corruption and governance, and will soon be open to the public.

Also available is a link to the SIGMA/TI Anti-Corruption Directory, an in-depth reference guide to multinational programmes supporting anti-corruption efforts in central and eastern European countries.

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World Audit

World Audit's aim is to provide the public with a truly global geopolitical perspective on issues such as democracy, human rights, press freedom, corruption and the rule of law.

World Audit brings together statistics and reports from highly respected agencies, each with their own developed specialties, e.g. Freedom House, Transparency International, Amnesty International and The International Commission of Jurists. World Audit also creates its own World Democracy Audit, which is available on its website.

CONTACT

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Web: www.worldaudit.org

International Center for Nonprofit Law

The International Center for Nonprofit Law (ICNL) is an international organization whose mission is to facilitate and support the development of civil society and the freedom of association on a global basis. ICNL, in cooperation with other international, national, and local organizations, provides technical assistance for the creation and improvement of laws and regulatory systems that permit, encourage, and regulate the not-for-profit, nongovernment (NGO) sector in countries around the world.



ICNL maintains a documentation center for laws, regulations, self-regulatory materials, and other relevant documents, it provides relevant training and education, and it conducts research relevant to strengthening and improving laws affecting the NGO sector.

An on-line library is available through the website. Many of their publications are also available online.

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LINK Research

LINK Research is a free, easy-to-use Web service that allows community based organizations to post research projects and enables researchers to find meaningful research topics.



Using LINK involves three easy steps:

- Organizations post research projects they would like to have done.
- Researchers search the site for projects that match their interests and skills.
- Researchers apply directly to organizations.

The website contains easy, step by step instructions on searching for and posting research projects.

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Web: www.LinkResearch.org

ELECTRONIC DISCUSSION GROUPS

Institute for Development Studies

The Civil Society and Governance Programme hosts a listserv to discuss issues concerning all aspects of civil society and its interplay with government / impact on governance.

If you want to join the listserv, send an email to: civil-society-request@mail-base.ac.uk

ISTR

The ISTR Listserv (ISTR-L) offers an electronic mail network as a great way to communicate with ISTR members and others interested in the Third Sector world, to share news and views, to seek information, and to engage in conversation. To subscribe to the ISTR ListServ (ISTR-L), send a one-line, no subject, e-mail message to: LISTSERV@YORKU.CA.

The one line message should say:
subscribe ISTR-L Firstname
Lastname

Centre for Civil Society International (CCSI)

CCSI maintains CivilSoc, a listserv reaching more than 1,900 subscribers. It covers a range of subjects: upcoming events or conferences, job opportunities and internships,

new organizations or projects, as well as occasional queries for all list members. For more information on how to subscribe, visit the CCSI website at <http://fpmail.friends-partners.org/mailman/listinfo.cgi/civilsoc>

North-South-Institute

As part of its research project "The Rise of Nongovernmental Voices in Multilateral Organizations", the Institute maintains a moderated listserv. It serves not only to share the research findings with others in the global community, but also to generate a broader discussion about the core issues of civil society. To subscribe, please send a blank email to: SUBSCRIBE-Civil_Society@lists.nsi-ins.ca.

Le Group De Discussion de la Sqép

A French speaking open unmoderated list for general discussion on evaluation and associated issues. To subscribe send an e-mail (no subject) to listserv@qsen.meg.gouv.qc.ca

The body of the message should read: `SUSCRIBE sqep
your_Firstname
your_LastName.`

The — strengthening civil society worldwide

In early 2000, CIVICUS installed a global project advisory group to obtain guidance on how to design and implement the CIVICUS Index on Civil Society project. At the moment, the group consists of more than 40 civil society practitioners and researchers from all regions of the world.

Kumi Naidoo interviewed three distinguished members of the advisory group: Elba Luna, Alan Fowler and Bob Bothwell along with Mall Hellam, Director of the Open Estonia Foundation, CIVICUS' national partner in implementing the Index project in Estonia. They spoke on the relevance of the Index project for strengthening civil society worldwide. As a service to our Spanish-speaking members, we print Elba Luna's interview in Spanish.



Elba Luna is the director of the Grupo de Analisis y Desarrollo Institucional y Social (GADIS) in Argentina. In the interview, she reports on a research project on a civil society index she recently conducted in several provinces in Argentina.

Kumi Naidoo: Cuál es la importancia de medir la fortaleza de la sociedad civil?

Elba Luna: En países como Argentina (en el contexto de América Latina y los países menos desarrollados), la importancia de medir la fortaleza de la sociedad civil debe ser considerada en dos sentidos:

- como una herramienta técnica/conceptual (permite acrecentar el conocimiento sobre la iniciativa asociativa y sirve como instrumento para el

diseño y la focalización de políticas);

- como un mecanismo de fortalecimiento institucional (fomenta legitimidad y control social)

En nuestros países, en general, se ha construido una imagen colectiva en relación a las organizaciones de la sociedad basada en la desconfianza, valor que ha moldeado en gran medida el escenario de las relaciones entre las OSC y los distintos actores sociales, especialmente el Estado. El Índice al permitir sobre una base cierta las capacidades y ventajas comparativas instaladas, permite demistificar muchas convicciones y creencias basadas en aquel paradigma de la desconfianza. Esto tiene que ver con mucho de los hallazgos del Índice, como por ejemplo la evidencia del predominio de la iniciati