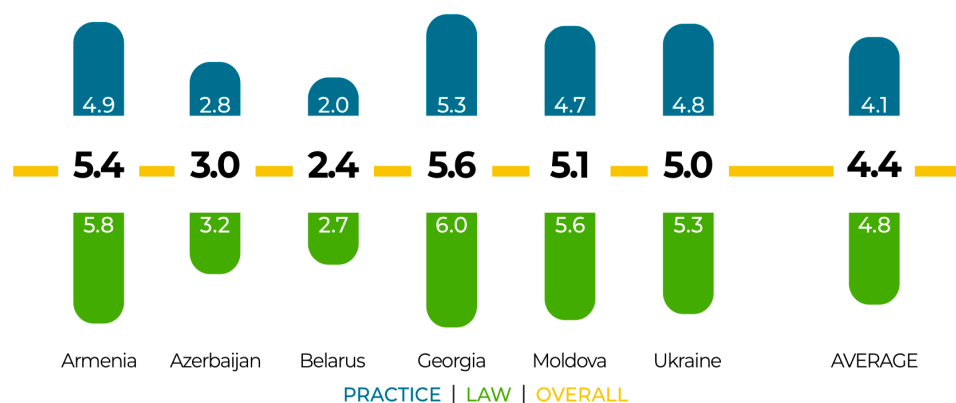


# CSO Meter 2021

## Access to Funding: Area with lowest scores in two countries



### Area 3. Access to Funding



Belarus and Azerbaijan had a low score, equal or below 3 (1-7, 1 being the lowest), in the area of Access to Funding. Georgia was the leader in this area in both Law and Practice.

In most of the countries of the region CSOs are free to seek, receive, and use financial and material resources for the pursuit of their objectives. Azerbaijan and Belarus are exceptions to this trend. Below we provide a list of the limitations to CSOs' access to funding in these two countries that contradict international standards.

#### In Belarus:

- Restrictions are imposed on both foreign donations and donations from Belarusian corporate donors, both financial and in-kind.
- The procedure for the receipt, registration, and use of gratuitous foreign aid is difficult and burdensome and usually results in refusal. Since the end of 2021, amendments to laws further tightened the definitions of foreign donors (to include Belarusian citizens permanently residing outside of Belarus for more than 183 days out of 12 months) as well as foreign anonymous donors (which includes not only the anonymous donors, but also the individual that did not reveal the donor's identity in a relevant payment document).
- Public associations cannot independently conduct entrepreneurial activities.
- Public associations are banned from having bank accounts and from keeping money abroad.
- The leaders of CSOs that organised crowdfunding and used other digital fundraising tools to support people that suffered from brutality and political repression have been imprisoned and subject to criminal charges (e.g., *MolaMola* and the fundraising campaigns *BySol* and *Byhelp*).

#### In Azerbaijan:

- Anonymous donations, donations from foreigners and stateless persons and cash donations exceeding 110 EUR are prohibited.
- Only charities can receive cash donations, despite the lack of a clear procedure for obtaining the status of a charity.
- The passport details of each donor, even for a donation of just 20 cents, must be recorded and submitted to the Ministry of Finance.
- CSOs' access to foreign grants, donations and service contracts has been seriously impeded since 2014 when several restrictive provisions were introduced for foreign donors (i.e., the requirement to have representation in Azerbaijan, to sign a special agreement with the MoJ and to prove the economic-financial expediency of the project).

For more information, please read the 2021 CSO Meter regional report available [here](#).

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