

## Governance ...

New ways of policy shaping through civil society?

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# Civil society – the power of the people

*The World of NGOs*

Was tut das Volk?  
Es volkt nicht!

Written on a wall in Dresden/Germany 2008

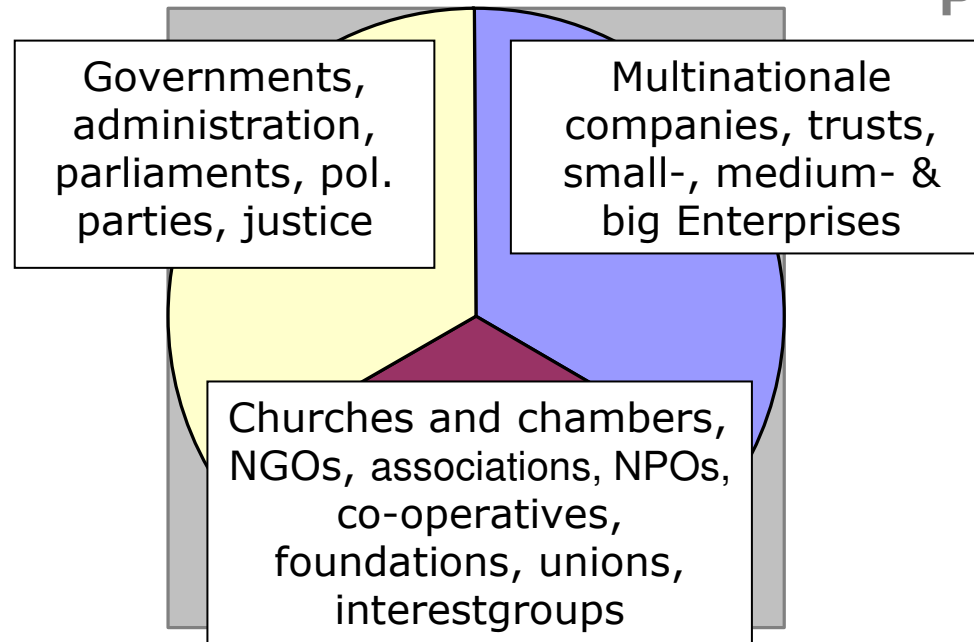
Source: Maecenata Institute, Berlin, Rupert Graf Strachwitz

# A third global force

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1st sector:  
**The State**

2nd sector:  
**Private Economy**



3rd Sector:  
**Civil Society**

# „Organised“ civil society gets stronger

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Where governments do not severely limit civil society, the role and the influence of CSOs have exploded in the last decade – with the evolving concept of “governance” in the European Union civil society organisations have been increasingly acknowledged by European institutions.

Today NGOs deliver – side by side with banks and funds – more official development assistance to the world than the entire system of UN and they get most of the project budgets of the EU.

⇒ *Political and economic leaders have two choices:  
Either they genuinely engage civil society and inaugurate threefolding processes that can lead to authentic sustainable development.  
Or they can ignore civil society but at the risk of their own demise!*

NGO-speaker at the WTO conference, 2000

# Civil Dialogue – a top-down approach

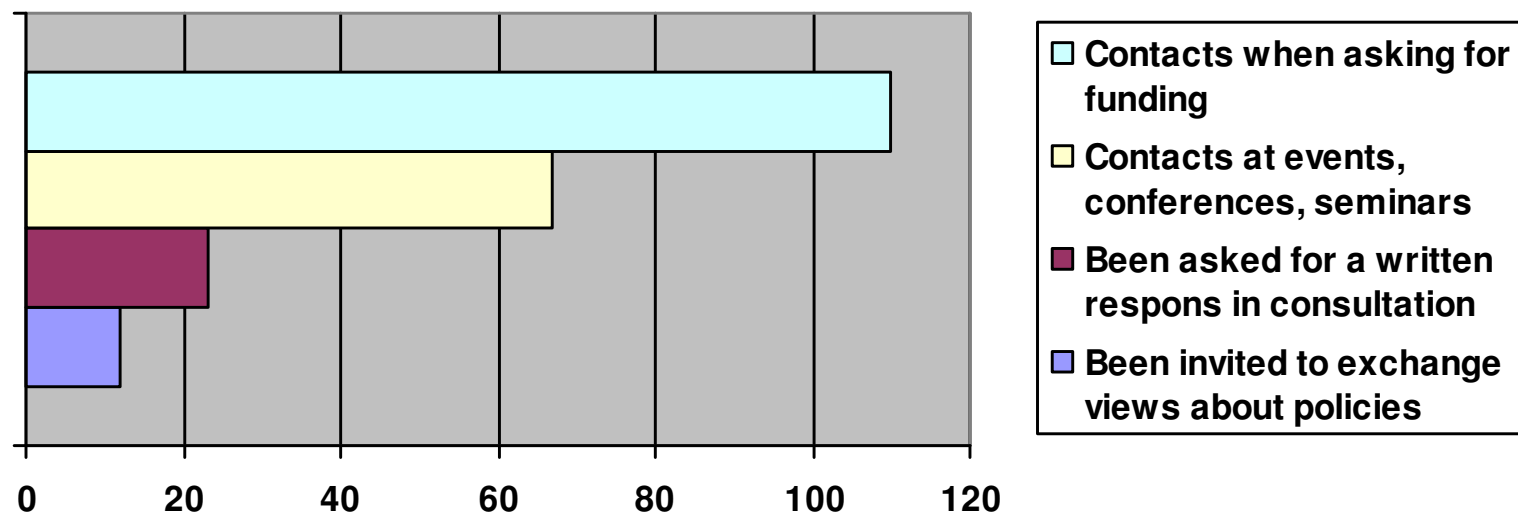
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- Communication and consultation of institutions with organisations of civil society in the European Union
  - In a **structured and systematic way**
  - Following the practice of „Social Dialogue“
  - Necessary to involve as many different interest groups as possible, not just the two established ones!
  
- Involvement of CS – yes, but how and whom?
  - Structures and proceedings
  - Public hearings
  - Concerted consultation
  - Written consultation in the run-up of decisions and laws
  - Thematic Internet-portals

# Ways of communication with institutions

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Civil dialogue in practice?

Still a long way to go!

# NGO-compacts – the bottom-up approach

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## **Formal written agreements between state and CS**

- Structured and systematic relationship
- Basic principles of co-operation and support
- NGOs as core of civil society
- Co-operation → new duties and responsibilities for all!

# CD in practice

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- New forms of civil dialogue emerge
  - „Forest dialogue“, development of a national forest programme with special committees, a Round Table, expert modules, an Internet website for broad participation and public events
  - „Citizens‘ panels“, gathering randomly selected citizens to discuss policies
- Framework requirement is part of the democratic process!
- There are times of prosperity, there are times of poverty
  - Focus on essential values
  - Strengthen the power of alternatives of civil society



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Information and networking  
for civil society

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**Thank you for your attention!**

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