

NGO funding revisited - a surprising outcome of Covid-19 epidemic in Slovenia

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Abstract:

The paper aims to present legislative changes and concrete Government intervention measures for the NGO sector, which were adopted due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021, and its impact on the financing of NGOs in Slovenia. The research uses a descriptive methodological approach, which provides an insight into the current theoretical and legislative starting points on one side and later an empirical review of practice on the other. An in-depth analysis of concrete Government intervention measures to mitigate the consequences of the Covid-19 epidemic regarding NGOs shows the Government treated NGOs and other non-profits similar to the business sector. Despite different benefits and reductions in NGOs costs, the financial capacity of the NGO sector deteriorated. The (temporary) intervention measures made the NGOs more resilient to the negative financial consequences of the epidemic (e.g. payment of equipment costs to fight the epidemic, rent, and tax reductions). Yet more interesting from the systematic point of view are the more lasting legislative solutions, like the expansion of the NGO Development fund bringing positive results regarding systematic funding and empowering of the NGO sector.