

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ROLE
CONTRIBUTION TO LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT:
KEY FACTORS AND GOOD PRACTICES**

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Local Development, Civil Society, and Human Capital: Conceptual Linkages

Key Concepts

- **Local development** refers to processes that improve economic, social, institutional, and environmental conditions within communities through participation and local ownership.
- **Human capital development** includes investments in people's: education, skills, health, civic competences, social participation.
- **Civil society organisations (CSOs)** act as intermediaries between citizens, local authorities, and the private sector.



Core Message

CSOs contribute to local development not only through service delivery, but also by strengthening human and social capital within communities.

How CSOs Contribute to Human Capital Development at Local Level

1. Education and Skills Development

CSOs:

- provide non-formal education,
- organise vocational training,
- support digital literacy,
- deliver youth empowerment programmes.

2. Civic Participation and Leadership

CSOs help citizens:

- understand rights and responsibilities,
- engage in local governance,
- participate in community initiatives,
- develop leadership and advocacy skills.

3. Social Inclusion

CSOs often support:

- women, youth,
- rural communities,
- persons with disabilities,
- vulnerable groups.

This improves equitable access to opportunities and services.

4. Innovation and Community Resilience

Local NGOs frequently pilot innovative solutions in:

- social services,
- environmental protection,
- local entrepreneurship,
- community mobilisation.

Why CSOs Matter for Sustainable Local Development

Added Value of CSOs

CSOs strengthen local sustainable development by:

- building local capacities,
- mobilising community resources,
- fostering partnerships,
- increasing social cohesion,
- improving local governance.

Key Reflection

Human capital development is not only an economic process; it is also a social and democratic process in which CSOs play a central role.

Dimension	Contribution
Economic	Skills, employability, entrepreneurship
Social	Inclusion, participation, trust
Institutional	Accountability, advocacy, governance
Environmental	Awareness, local sustainability initiatives



Example: National NGO Council of Moldova

About the Council

The National NGO Council of Moldova is a national platform representing civil society organisations in Moldova.

Main Objectives

- strengthen civil society capacity,
- promote participatory democracy,
- advocate for enabling legal and policy frameworks,
- support cooperation between NGOs and public authorities.



Conclusions settled at the end of the conference cooperation between the Parliament and civil society, 25.05.2026

- ✓ the associative sector needs a common and more coherent representation in relation to the state;
- ✓ it is necessary to establish permanent platforms for dialogue between the Parliament, the Government, civil society and development partners;
- ✓ expanding the percentage designation mechanism to 3%;
- ✓ supporting active organizations at local and national levels through predictable and long-term mechanisms.
- ✓ the vulnerability of CSOs in the territory requires increased attention.

Cooperation with Local NGOs

The Council:

- connects national and local CSOs,
- supports advocacy initiatives at local level,
- facilitates training and capacity-building,
- promotes citizen participation in local governance,
- encourages collaboration with local authorities and development partners.

Contribution to Local Sustainable Development

Through its support to local NGOs, the Council contributes to:

- stronger local institutions,
- improved civic engagement,
- community empowerment,
- local policy participation,
- sustainable and inclusive development practices.

Concluding Reflections

Main Takeaways

- **Human capital development is essential for sustainable local development.**
- **CSOs are key actors in developing:**
 - skills,
 - participation,
 - social inclusion,
 - local leadership.
- **Strong cooperation between national networks and local NGOs enhances development impact.**
- **The Moldovan example shows how umbrella civil society structures can strengthen local communities and democratic governance.**

Final Reflection

Local sustainable development becomes more effective and inclusive when civil society organisations are recognised as long-term development partners rather than only service providers.