



# **Nonprofit-government relations: The public policy and advocacy perspectives**

# Nonprofit organizations

- What are nonprofit organizations?
- Functions
  - Social capital
  - Economic role
  - Religious role
  - Service
  - Policy
  - Advocacy
  - Global importance
- Interactions with the state – very different environments simultaneously,  
different stakeholders, very complex, dynamic shifts

# **NNO-government relations**

- Legal perspective
- Public policy perspective
- Advocacy perspective

# NNO-government relations

- Legal perspective
- **Public policy perspective**
- **Advocacy perspective**

# **Public policy perspective**

# Public policy perspective

- Embeddedness in welfare state arrangements
- Main question: To what extent governments and public administration cooperate with NPOs?
- Different models of nonprofit-government relations
  - Four-C model (Najam, 2000)
  - A triangular model (Young, 2000)
  - Social origins (Salamon and Anheier, 1998)

# Public policy perspective

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# Four-C model

- Based on institutional interests and preferences for policy ends and means
- 2 main hypotheses

1) NPOs constitute a distinct institutional sector with particular motivations and structural preferences

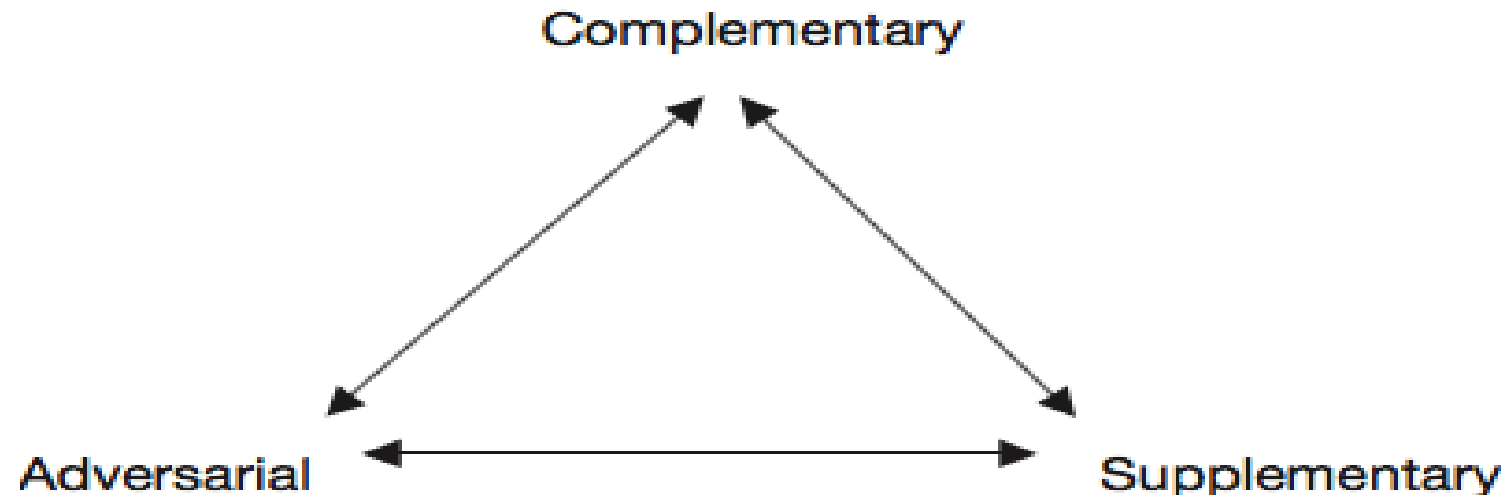
2) NPOs have an abiding interest in public policy

		Goals	
		Similar	Dissimilar
Means	Similar	Cooperation	Co-optation
	Dissimilar	Complementarity	Confrontation



# A triangular model

- Refers to economic theories of NPOs
- Refers to NPOs as service providers



# Social origins model

- Focus explicitly on broader social and political relationships

		Nonprofit scale	
		Low	High
Government social welfare spending	Low	Statist	Liberal
	High	Social democratic	Corporatist

# **Advocacy perspective**

# Advocacy perspective

- How and to what extent citizens make use of the public sphere by engaging in civic activities?
- Whether and how civil society organizations give citizens a voice and provide avenues for a political participation?
  1. NPOs mediate/facilitate civic participation
  2. NPOs engage in public-interest advocacy activities

# Social movement theory argument

- Civil society and the state are deeply intertwined, but also have conflictual relationship
- Social movements as informal networks created by a multiplicity of individuals, groups, and organizations, engaged in political or cultural conflicts on the basis of a shared collective identity (Diani 1992)

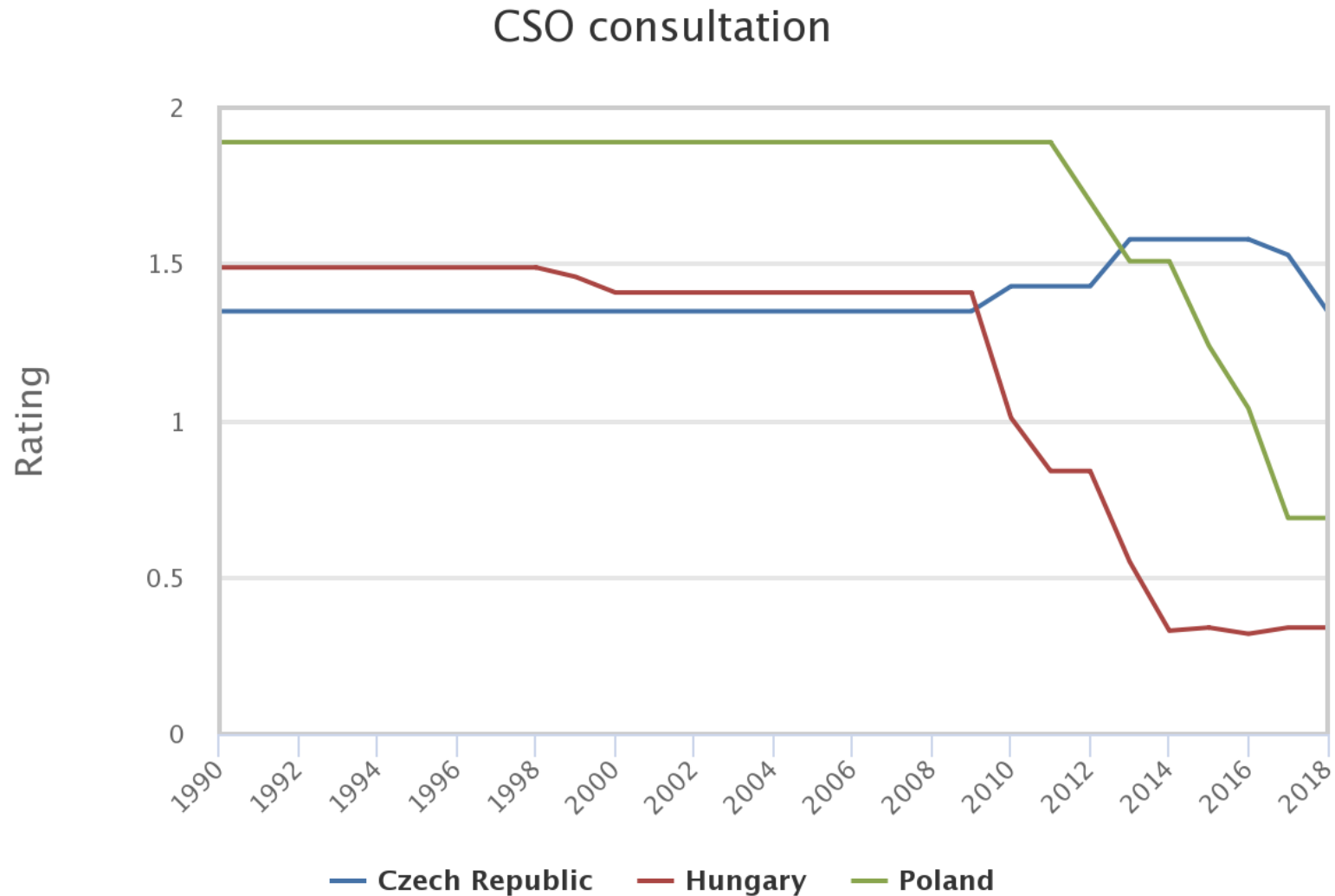
# Social movement theory argument II

- A relationship cycle:
  1. SMO translates private into public concerns
  2. SMO gives impetus for the creation of NPO
  3. Successful NPO influences government policy
  4. Government responds by directly addressing the issue or funds nonprofits
    1. Nonprofit addresses public concerns and tries to influence again
- Examples of such successful movements?

# Public interest advocacy

- Public interest = NPO's crucial civic function
- Goal: To influence government decisions; to influence government policy (not to govern); or to encourage political participation
- Voicing a broader set of public interests
- Ideal vs. reality

# Are major civil society organizations (CSOs) routinely consulted by policymakers on policies relevant to their members?





# Advocacy

Why should NPO participate in policies and policy-making?

Reasons to advocate?

Targets of advocacy activities?

# What affects advocacy

- Declining civic engagement
- Government regulation
- Growing business competition
- Public perception
- Elite discourse

# Public perception and elite discourse

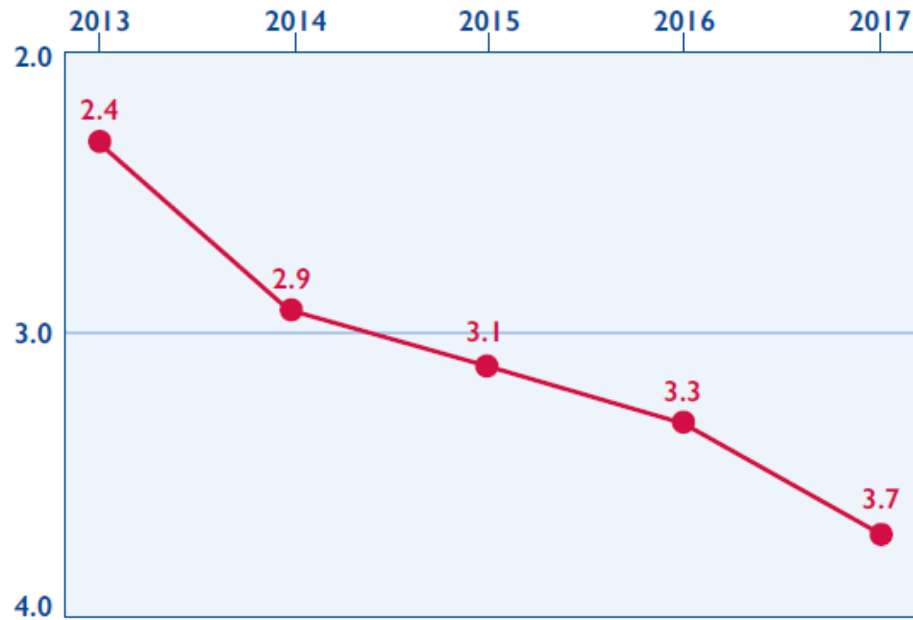
- How is civil society organizations (CSOs) and NPOs framed by the political elites?
- What is a public image of CSOs?
- In CEE: Recent political developments in contemporary democracies suggest that civil and political actors are undergoing significant transformations, post-1989 (neo)liberal consensus have been openly questioned and criticized by the new political actors

# NPOs as the enemy of the people

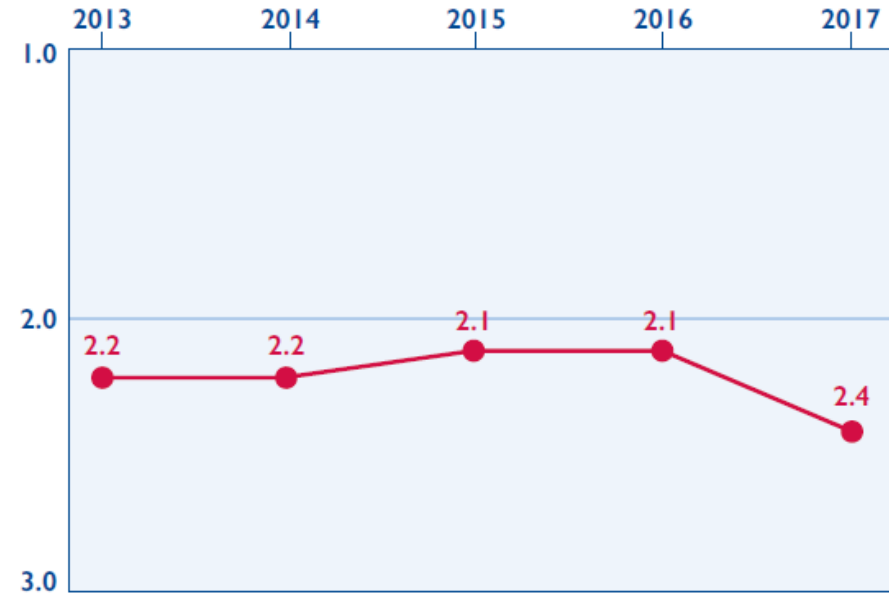
- CSOs = NPOs, human rights/liberal organizations
- By populists often framed as „agents of neomarxism and liberalism“ threatening the nation and its culture (in Central and Eastern Europe)
- Puppets of foreign interests (Soros and his ‘plan’) – the case of Central European University
- HUN/POL: „government-friendly“ (conservative) or oppositional (liberal) CSOs – governments organized campaigns against CSO
- CZ: “ngo-ism” (Václav Klaus)

# Legal environment

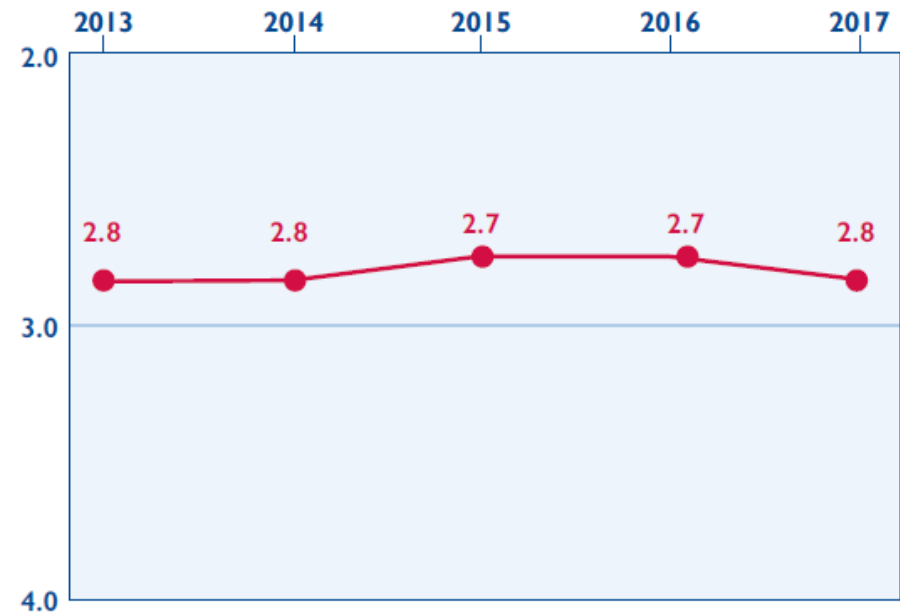
## LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN HUNGARY



## LEGAL ENVIRONMENT IN POLAND

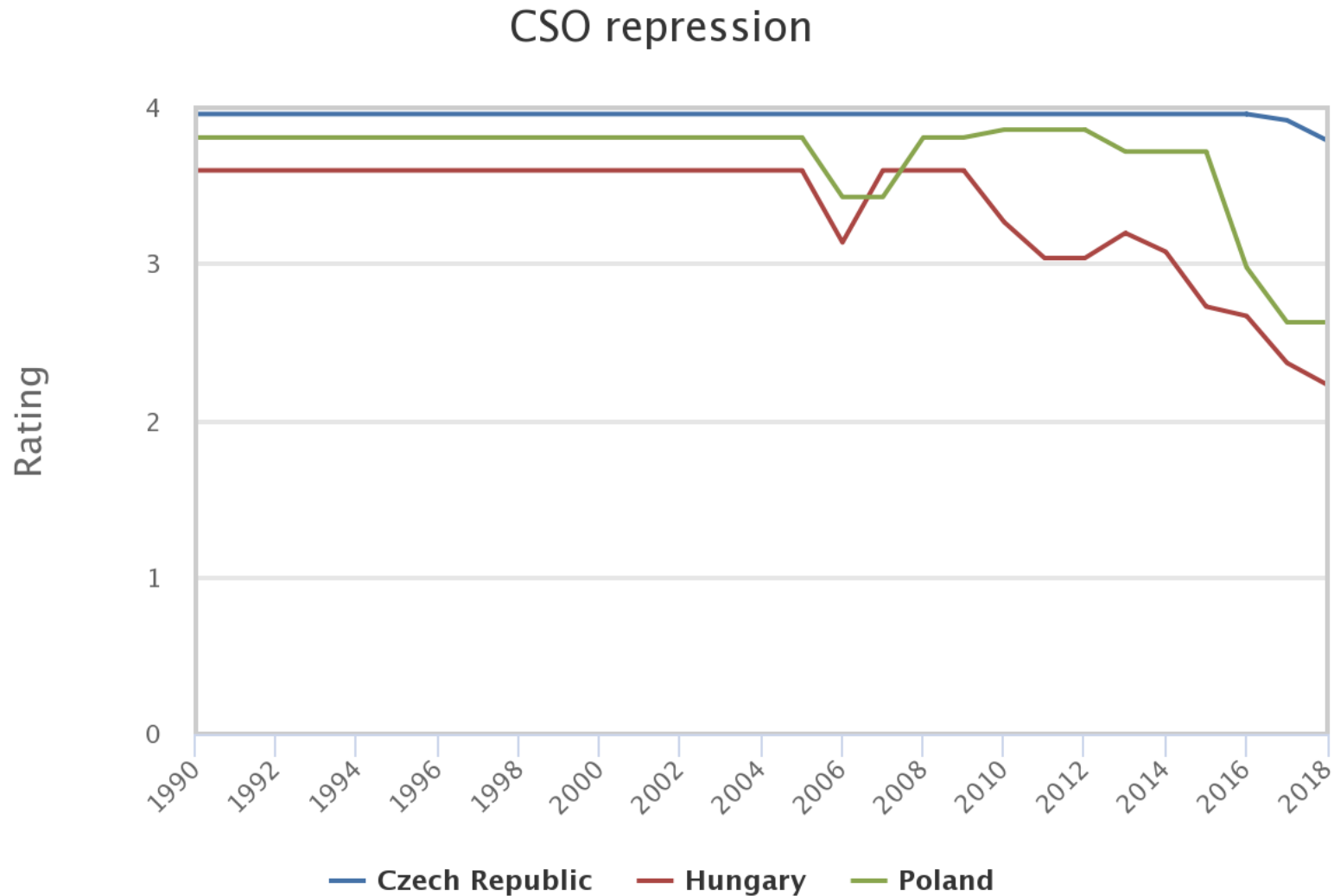


## IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

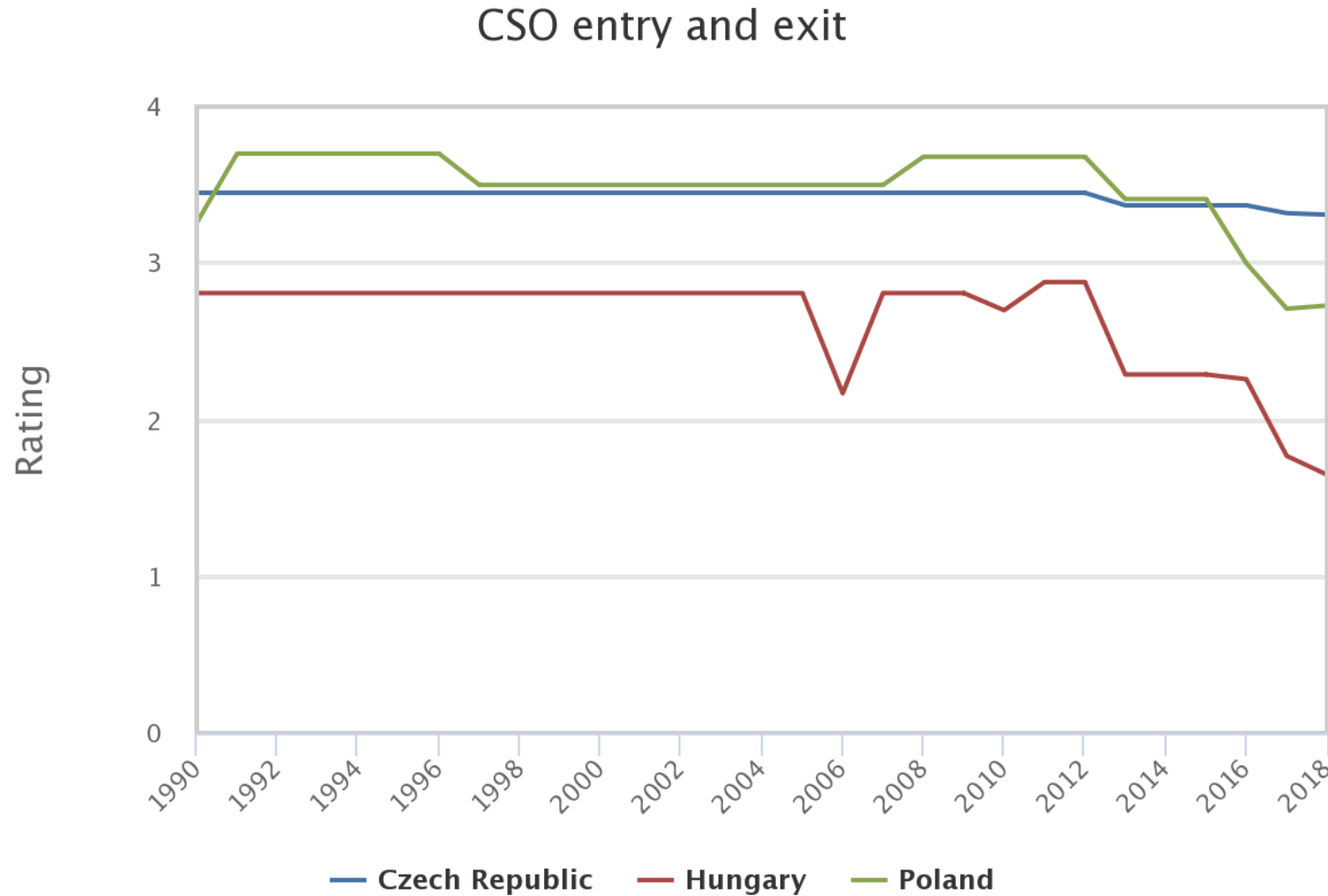


Source: 2017 CSO  
Sustainability Index

# Does the government attempt to repress civil society organizations (CSOs)?

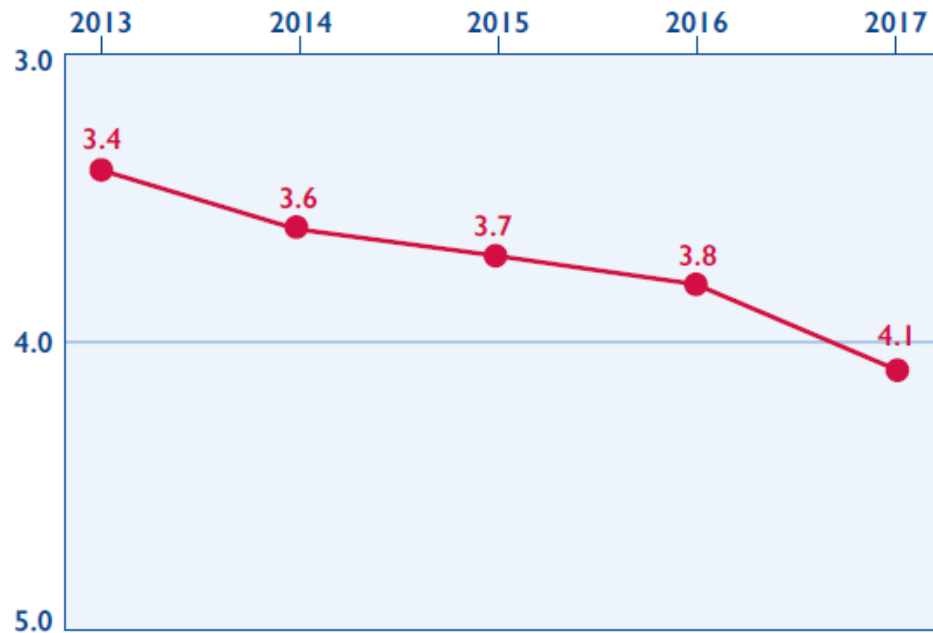


# To what extent does the government achieve control over entry and exit by civil society organizations (CSOs) into public life?

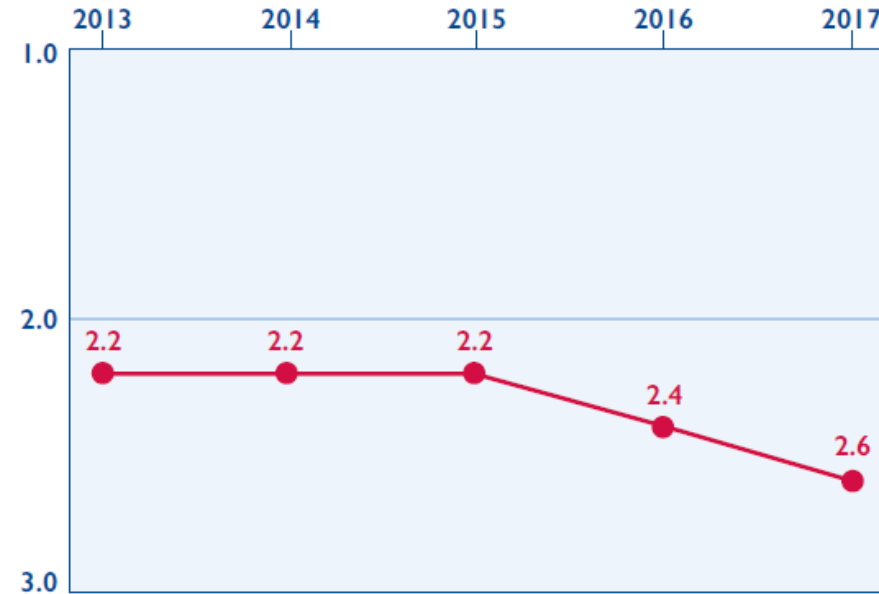


# Public image of CSOs

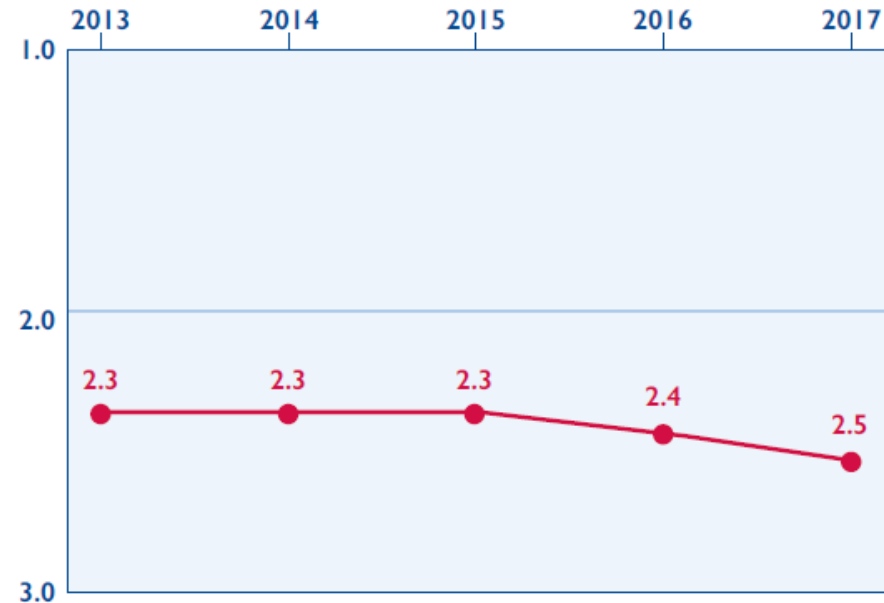
## PUBLIC IMAGE IN HUNGARY



## PUBLIC IMAGE IN POLAND



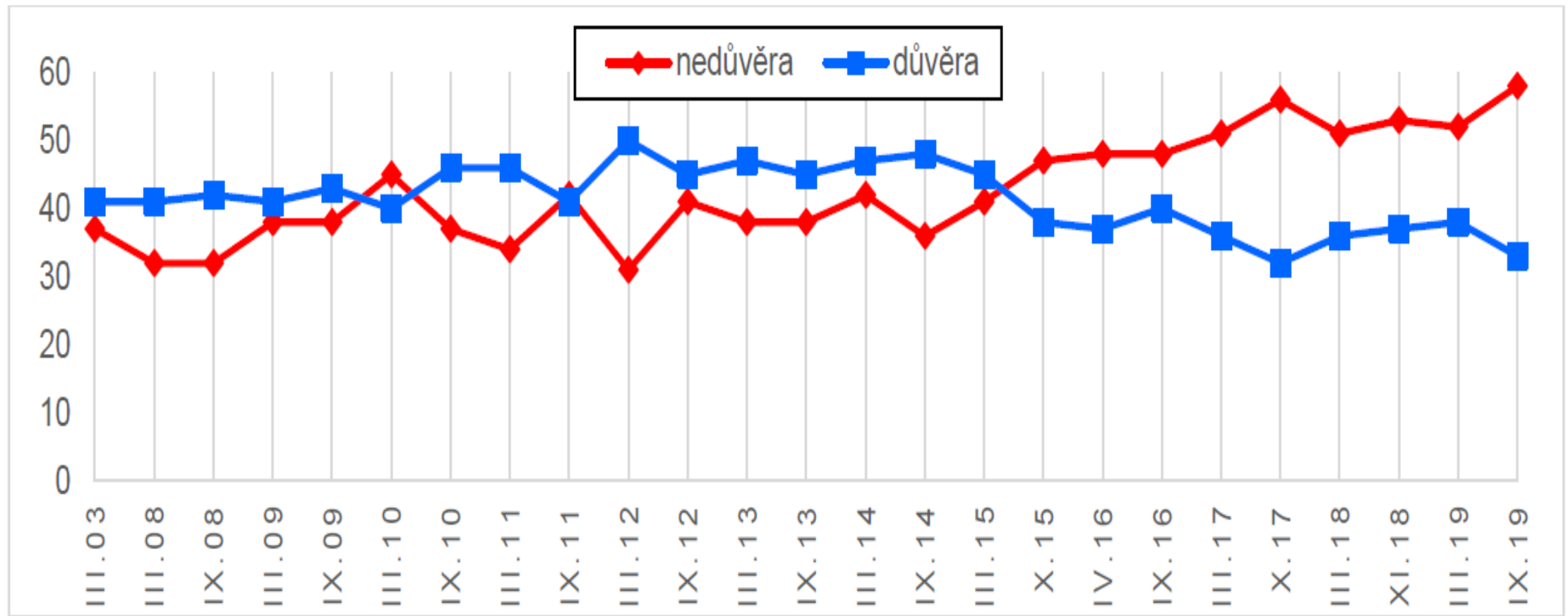
## PUBLIC IMAGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Source: 2017 CSO  
Sustainability Index



# Trust in non-profit organizations (CZE)



# Nonprofit responses

- Have had to become more sophisticated
- Created more complex organizational structures
- Take advantage of new technologies – Internet activism fundamentally altered civic participation and advocacy
- Invested in effective research
- Increasingly turned to collaborations, including some with business organizations

# Forms: How to advocate?

- Lobbying (direct, grassroots, administrative)
- Research and analysis
- Education of the public on crucial issues
- Legal advocacy in the courts
- Media
- Social media: „Tweeting social change“
- Public events and direct action (calls for boycotts and demonstrations)
- Expert testimony (testifying before governmental bodies)
- Talks with governments
- Petition letters, participation in referenda or initiative campaigns
- Grassroots organizing and communication with local leaders

# Public funding and its impact on nonprofit advocacy

- Relationship between public funding and nonprofit engagement in advocacy (Neumayr et al. 2015)
- 2 main lines of the argument:
  - Resource dependence theory: NPOs that receive public funding will eventually reduce their advocacy activities or even refrain from them altogether for fear of losing their funding
  - NPOs who receive public funding will increase their engagement in advocacy

# So does it affect...?

- Empirical studies: mixed results, mostly on US
- E.g. Austria (Neumayr et al. 2015)
  - No *significant* relationship between advocacy and the receipt of public funding or the proportion of an organization's total revenue coming from public funding
  - The degree to which nonprofits engage in advocacy is influenced by the geographic range of operation and field of activity

# **Citizen Lobbying: How Your Skills Can Fix Democracy**

By Alberto Alemanno (at TEDxBrussels)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqNf2OPdu8c>

## **Going the Digital Route**

By Marci Harris, a former congressional staffer, founded Popvox, a non-partisan platform to engage digitally with Congress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aKyYR-iWpc>

# **Advocacy Through Social Media: Why Trending Topics Matter**

By Karen McAlister (at TEDxUTA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4sGLLaLq-Q>



**MUMI**

**Thank you for participation**