

# **Role of Civil Society in Governance and Democratic Accountability of Internal Migration Funding**

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**Public Hearing “Assessing the Flow of EU migration expenditure”**



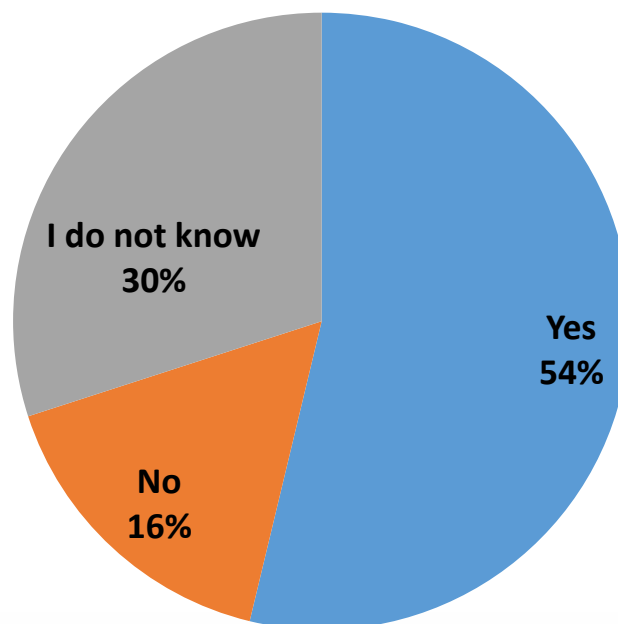
# The Role of civil society in bringing back the evidence to the EU

- **EU Better Regulation and Treaties** - efficiency and effectiveness entails **Fundamental Rights**
- **EU Added Value** is also in upholding the Union and International standards – **Schengen Borders Code, Common European Asylum System, Fundamental Rights**
- Upholding the **Rule of Law, Democracy & Fundamental Rights**

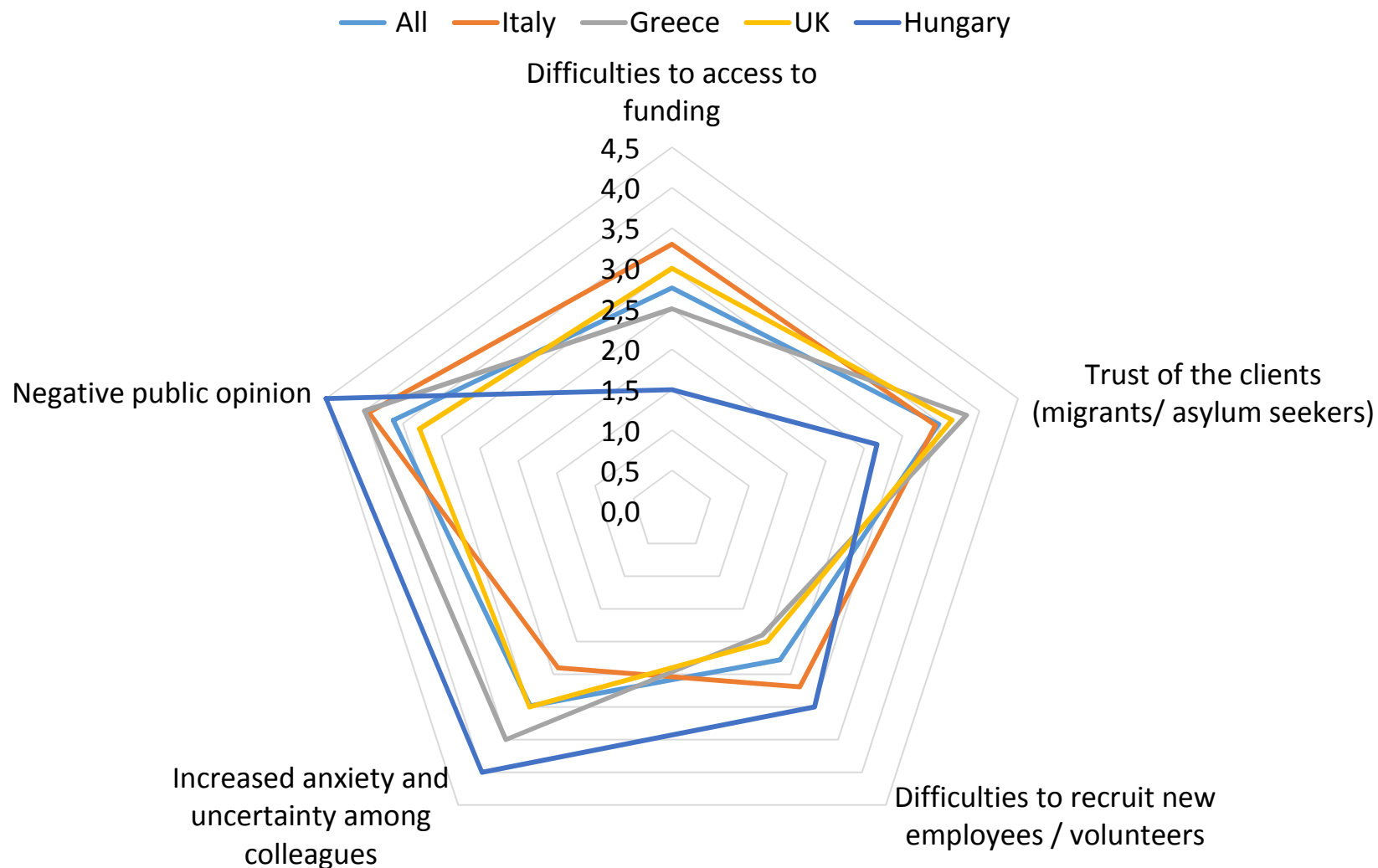


# Lessons learnt

**Have you witnessed an increase in the policing of the humanitarian assistance in your country since the emergence of the European Refugee Crisis? All (n=80)**



**In your opinion, what is the most at stake for your organisation, when thinking about increased policing of humanitarian assistance? Please rank, from 5 - the most important to 1 - the least important (N=80)**



## Positive initiatives to be sustained

- European Values Instrument
- Litigation Fund
- Rule of Law as ‘conditionality’ in new MFF

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. 'Firewalls' between civil society and national authorities, law enforcement
2. More possibilities for direct funding from **EC to independent 'watch-dog' civil society** - providing legal assistance/ services to undocumented
3. Funding on anti-smuggling conditional upon **exemption of** actors providing humanitarian assistance and upholding right to dignity
4. Establishment of **permanent observatory** monitoring interferences with civil society working on migration
5. More possibilities for **complaints** and **shadow reporting**



# Thank you!

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## Lessons from the Ground

Migration Funding is designed, implemented and monitored under presumption that Member States respect Rule of Law, Freedom of Assembly and Independence of Civil Society Actors





# Priority towards 'Security' perspective



- **Security for whom?**
- High levels of insecurity, legal uncertainty and anxiety among civil society actors
- Cases ranging from suspicion & intimidation to disciplining and criminalisation – SAR, services, legal provision
- Anti-smuggling policies & practices are undermining the trust to **civil society actors**



## Uses of migration related funding

- Tool for silencing the criticism towards authorities
- Limiting the areas of action – who and what is (not) eligible?
- Putting in question the ethos, impartiality and independence of civil society actors