

MAECENATA STIFTUNG
TOCQUEVILLE FORUM

ICFO Annual General Meeting Open Conference 2017

The Changing Space for Civil Society

Dr. Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Maecenata Institute

Dr. Eckhard Priller, Maecenata Institute

Dr. Mareike Alscher, Humboldt University

Susanne Ratka, Community Research Project



1. Introduction and External Changes (State and Market)
Dr. Rupert Graf Strachwitz, Maecenata Institute
2. Internal Changes (Demography and Social Inequality) –
Dr. Mareike Alscher, Humboldt University
3. Practical Insights – Changes in Civil Society
Susanne Ratka, Community Research Project



The Tocqueville Forum

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initiated by the Maecenata Foundation in 2016

at the crossroads of research, politics, and the field

- offers practical support for civil society through supportive services and discussions,
- offers a forum for reflection on potential fields of work, functions, and dynamics of civil society,
- develops ideas on how to strengthen the outreach of civil society in political, public, and academic discussions

Projects should include European and global cooperation.



- Library
- Online Public Information Service on Civil Society
- Non-academic Training
- Foundation Database
- Young Academics Working Group
- Changing Space for Civil Society Working Group



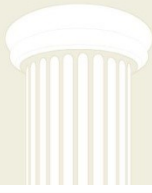
A Shrinking Space for Civil Society !

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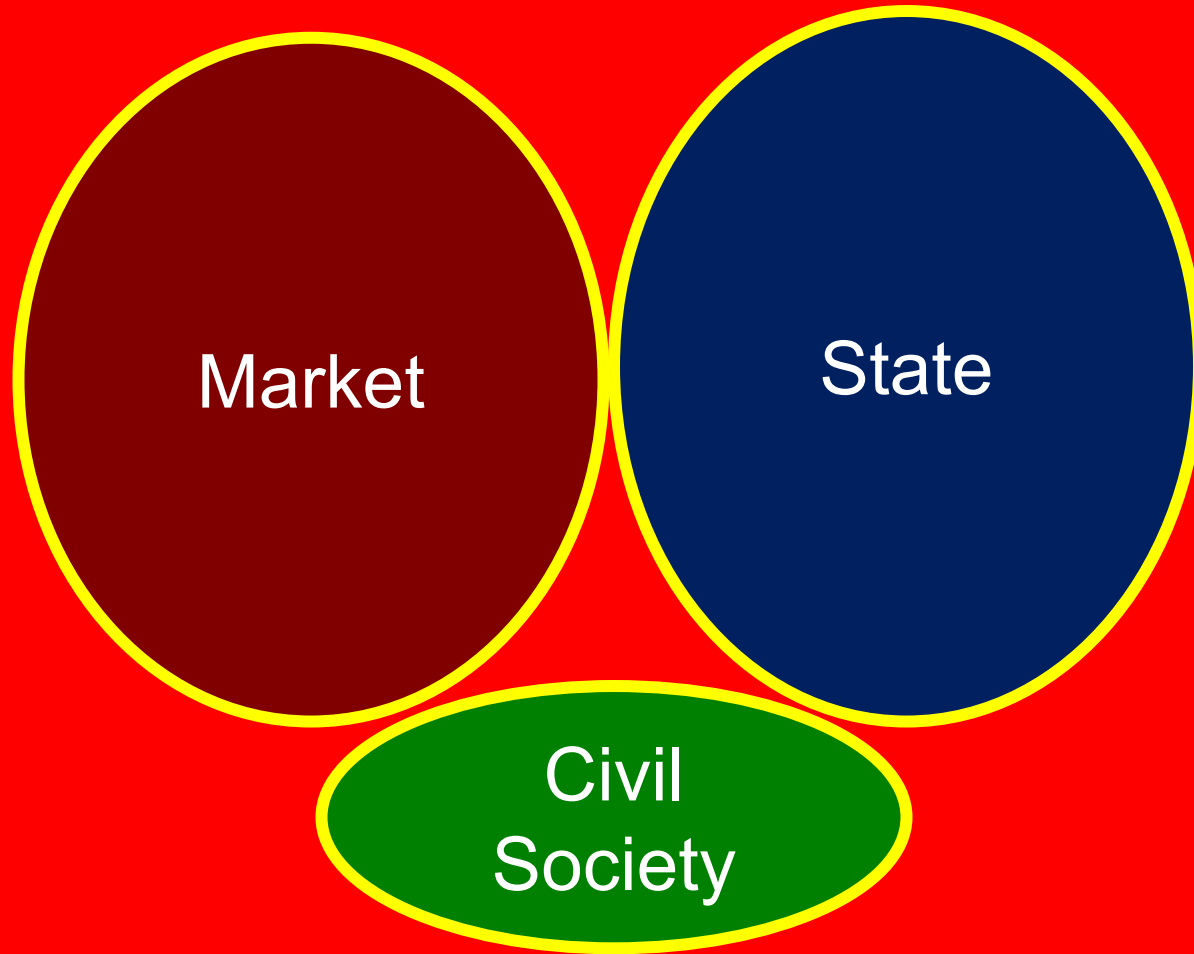
„Every day journalists and human rights activists report how representatives of civil society are beaten, tortured, and sometimes murdered for expressing opinions and assembling peacefully together.“ *Paula Schriefer, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs and Head of Delegation, United Nations 2014*

„A Shrinking Space for Civil Society“ „Dark Days for Civil Society“ „A Closing Space“

Civicus State of Civil Society Report 2015, UK FCO 2015, Open Society Foundations 2015, Al-Monitor 2016, European Foundation Centre 2016, EuroMedRights 2016, SOMO 2016, Maecenata Foundation 2016, DRA 2017, Amnesty International 2017, VENRO 2017, EU 2017, ...



A Shrinking Space ?



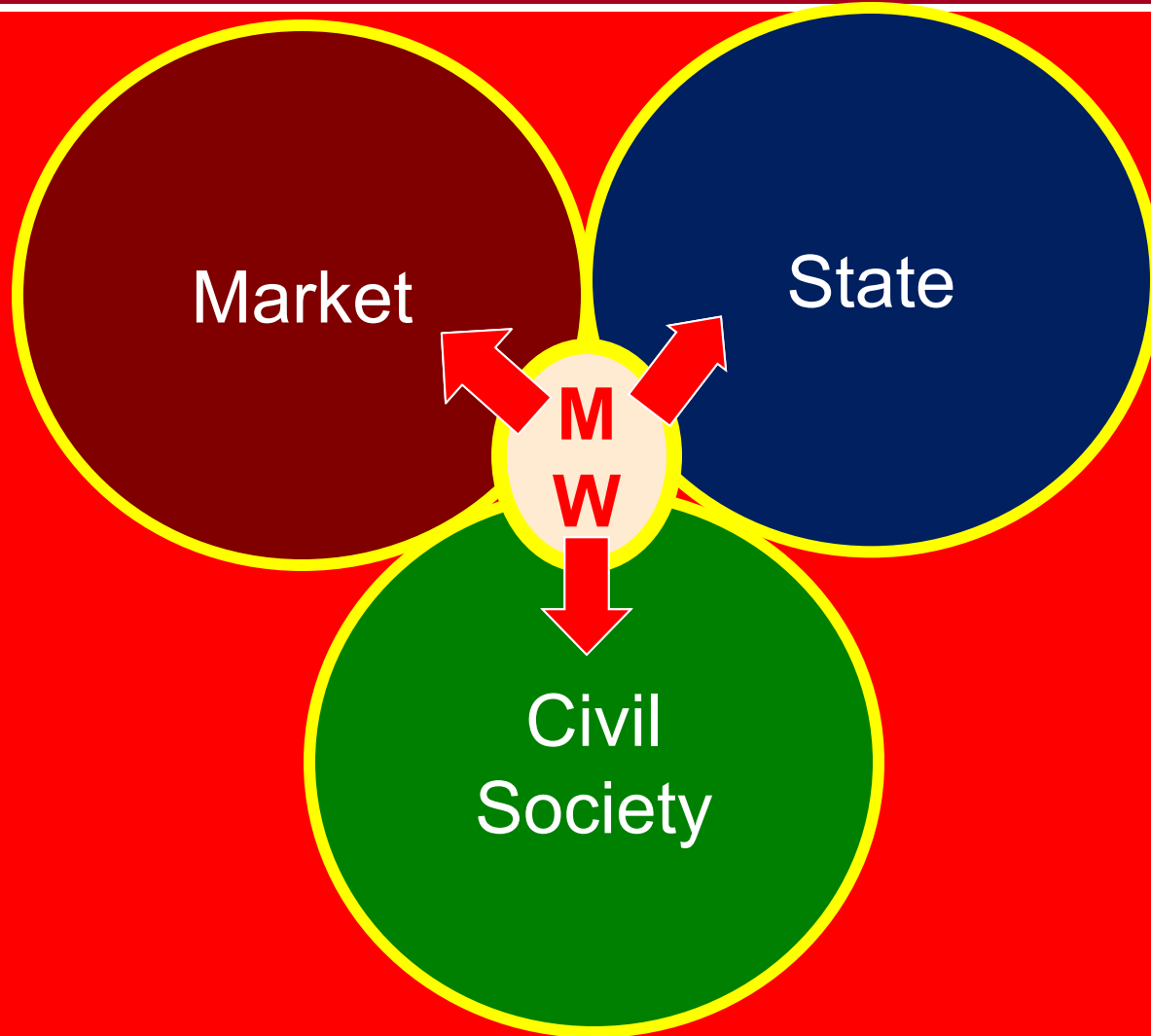


A Changing Space for Civil Society

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“The last decade has witnessed contrasting developments. CSOs are now **widely recognised** as development actors in their own right. They have **increased** in number and respond to new social bases, **building coalitions** at all levels. ... Yet the relationship between states and CSOs is often delicate. A **limited tradition of dialogue** still prevails in many countries and far too often the space for civil society remains **narrow** or is **shrinking**, with severe **restrictions** applied.”

Communication from the European Commission: The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development, Europe's Engagement with Civil Society. 2012





Civil Society

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- An arena in the public sphere with distinct features
- not a passing fashion
- theoretically and historically well grounded
- to be seen in any society
- asset to societies based on democracy, the rule of law, and human and civil rights
- not a normative category, to be measured against different societal norms



Civil Society Roles

- service provision
- advocacy
- watchdog
- self help
- intermediary
- community building
- policy shaping



Civil Society Roles

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- loyal
- exit
- voice

Albert Hirschman (1915-2012)



- organized civil society
- unorganized civil society



The Argument

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Is the space just shrinking?

➤ examples in Russia, Turkey, Hungary &c.

❖ **Do we need to fight the shrinking process?**

OR

Is the space changing?

❖ **Do we need to fight & reassess & adapt ...?**



External Changes: Civil Society and the State

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■ Popular with the State

- service provision
- intermediary
- self help
- community building ?

loyal

organized

■ Unpopular with the State

- advocacy
- watchdog
- policy shaping

voice

unorganized ?



Traditional national state under pressure from

- supranational bodies (EU ...)
- regional (subnational) bodies
- the market
- civil society
- citizens

State failures / failed states



States on the defensive (power game)

- using instruments of repression at their disposal
- urging domineering cooperation
- rely on civic engagement
- resent citizens wishing to participate in public affairs



An aggressive market

- domineering influence of market logic after 1990
- commercial service provision crowding out civil society
- civil society as market players and competitors
- market failures vs. civil society failures
- conflict between market activities and charity
- citizens suspect civil society of being too market orientated
- parts of the market adopting civil society logic



Changing instead of Shrinking: Mareike Alscher

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- “Shrinking Space” concentrates mainly on legal changes (civil society as a plaything at the hands of the state)
- neglects the autonomy of civil society
- additional framework conditions have a substantial influence on civil society
- UN High-Commissioner for Human Rights identified five key-elements for a favourable environment for civil society
- demographic change and social inequality are missing; influence depends on the country



Demographic Change

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- migration, age and mortality rate differ between countries
- aspects of demographic change in Germany:
 - life expectancy increases
 - fewer and fewer children are born
 - changing age structure: older
 - cities gain inhabitants
 - more people are living alone
 - Germany attracts many migrants
- demographic change emphasizes existing problems



Changing Social Fabric

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- despite the goal of equality of sorts, all available data point in the opposite direction
- extent of social inequality influences the chance each citizen gets to shape his/her life the way he/she wants it, and to actively participate in decision making processes
- socio-economically marginalized citizens have a lesser chance to participate
- civil society organisations have mechanisms that lead to the selection and exclusion of certain population groups



Consequences and Expectations

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- German civil society has failed to adjust to demographic change and social inequality
- concentration on societal developments is necessary to overcome the related challenges in the future:
 - **changes in the organisational landscape**
 - **changes in participation**
 - **changes in the financial situation**
 - **changes in performance demand**



Changes through the Logic of Civil Society: Susanne Ratka

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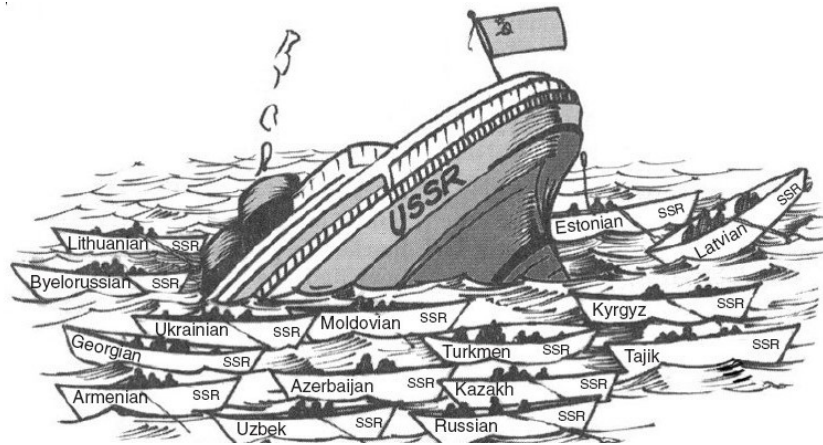


*There is nothing permanent except change.
Heraclitus*



Changes

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The Backlash

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Analysis 68

STUDY

The impact of international counter-terrorism on civil society organisations

Understanding the role of the Financial Action Task Force



Colour Revolutions

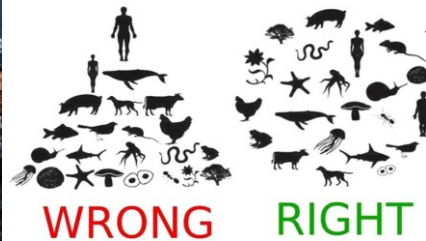
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- 2003 rose revolution in Georgia
- 2004 orange revolution in Ukraine
- 2005 cedar revolution in Lebanon
- 2005 tulip revolution in Kirghizia
- 2007 safron revolution in Myanmar
- 2010/11 jasmin revolution in Tunesia



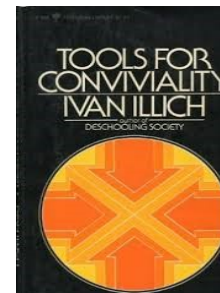
NGOS and New Movements

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~~TTIP
CETA
TISA~~

Umweltinstitut
München e.V.





Ecovillages – the beginnings

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Ecovillages Today

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LOS ANGELES
ECO-VILLAGE



Global Ecovillage Network(GEN)

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Ecovillages around the World





GEN Europe Conference 2017 in Ängsbacka

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