Non-governmental Sector and Democracy Empirical Reflections and Findings in the Baltic States: Results of Meta-analysis (Part II)

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This is the second part of meta-analysis on the interrelation between NGOs and democracy in Baltic States. The relation is monitored by integrating the regression technique to find out which factors have contributed most to the development of democracy. The assessment by integrating the model of traffic light has been applied to determine the effectiveness of factors and the level of their development in the context of democracy. The results of the research show that third sector does impact democracy in the Baltic States, secondly that in all three countries the ways in which NGOs influence democracy differ, thirdly as well as the level of influence towards democracy differs.

Keywords: *democracy, non-governmental organizations, traffic light model.*

Raktažodžiai: *demokratija, nevyriausybinės organizacijos, šviesoforo modelis.*

Introduction

One of the principle objectives of the series of articles is to evaluate empirically the significance of the NGOs' influence on the progress of democracy and determine the factors, which should be improved [10]. Arguably, this could be done in two ways: qualitatively and quantitatively. In the previous part of the research the primary factors of NGOs impact on democracy were defined. Although the factors were rated numerically over three periods of time simultaneously, the analysis has not been purely quantitative, but more a mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods. In this part of the series of articles an attempt has been made to define the NGO impact factors on democracy, measure the relation, value and level of development of primary and secondary, impacting and partially impacting factors of NGOs to democracy in the context of meta-analysis. In the article the comparative method described by F. Bechhofer and L. Paterson [5] is applied as well as in the previous research, i.e. comparison across time and space,

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combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. From the perspective of comparison across space, the Baltic region provides almost an ideal setting of three countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Regarding a comparison across time, three periods of time were chosen for the analysis: 1st period comprises years from 1997 till 2000, 2nd period – from 2001 till 2003, and 3rd period consists of years from 2004 till 2006. The relation between these two groups was monitored by integrating the regression technique to find out which factors have contributed most to the development of democracy, what finally helped to answer the question that third sector does impact democracy, and determine the ways in which NGOs impact the development of democracy[1]. Finally, the assessment by integrating the model of traffic light has been applied to determine the effectiveness of factors and the level of their development in the context of democracy.

1. Regression analysis and impact evaluation

The article continues with meta-analysis trying to give insight into the relative impact of independent variables by using regression. The regression expresses the prediction of dependent variables, where the interpreted values are between the extremes from 0 to 1, where 0 score stands for 0 percent, and 1 for 100 percent. *R*-value, as it appears next, indicates how well the chosen relation fits the data, the higher score of R, the more variability with the variables specified in the model is explained and the higher is the relative impact on democracy.

In further analysis NGOs' primary and secondary factors of impact are applied to the Baltic States and to each country individually. Therefore, while determining the relative impact, in cases of countries the average *R* will be defined, and compared with *R* applied to the whole region.

Once measuring is completed and an overall score of *R* assigned to each primary and secondary relations, it would be interesting to distinguish between each of the cases not only quantitative but also qualitative differences. This could be done by establishing thresholds according to the numerical interval they belong to. According to a commonly acknowledged rule, *R* appears to be important from the score of 0.3, consequently the factors, which fall below 0.3 will be considered as non-impacting, and the remaining scale is divided accordingly, and hereafter three broad rankings of primary relation are determined:

- Non-impact relation: having an average score between 0 and 0.3 inclusive;
- Partial impact relation: having an average score between 0.31 and 0.5 inclusive;
- Impact relation: having an average score between 0.51 and 1 inclusive.

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[1] The data for regression analysis are taken from following sources: Estonian Annual Reports on Statistic from 1997 to 2006; Latvian Annual Reports on Statistic from 1997 to 2006;Lithuanian Annual Reports on Statistic from 1997 to 2006; Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, Baltic Barometer and Baltic Voices; Unites States Agency for International Development: Europe and Eurasia; World Value Survey; Freedom House; United Nations Development Programme; Eurostat; Index of Economic Freedom; European Barometer, T. Vanhanen 2003.

The relations of secondary importance should have a higher impact ranking point, because their influence is not direct, therefore it is divided into two subgroups:

- Non-impact relation: having an average score between 0 and 0.5 inclusive;
- Impact relation: having an average score between 0.51 and 1 inclusive.

According to this ranking, only relations having partial of total impact could be considered as supportive or non-supportive to democracy.

The relations between NGOs' primary impact factors and the DEMO (degree of democracy and level of democratization) group explain how the third sector influences the DEMO group. The above relations underline the importance of 31 factors, as their average R exceeds the first threshold. However, the indexes of population belonging to professional and other NGOs, and index of NGOs target group should be excluded from primary factors of influence of the whole territory, because their result does not reach the minimum score. The six factors: indexes of NGOs types of services, active network, professionalism of representation, professionalism in management and organization, supportive legal environment have the most impact on the DEMO group, because they exceed the second threshold. It should be acknowledged, that these six factors impact the whole region, but if each country is explored separately, different factors with higest impact are determined: for Estonia 28 the most impact factors are determined, for Latvia – 8 impact factors, for Lithuania – 11 impact factors (see Table 1).

Apart from different degrees of the NGO group's impact on the development of democracy in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, there are also distinctions in the means of influence. It should be mentioned, that this time, partially impacting relations are not taken into consideration. The above criteria explain that Estonia has more primary instruments of influence than any other Baltic country, it has twenty eight NGO factors of major influence, which in one or another way impact democracy, Lithuania has eleven and Latvia only eight. Despite the fact that there are differences in quantity, few similarities from qualitative approach are defined. All three countries have four common indexes. Estonia due to the fact that it has the majority of NGO and DEMO impact relations, differs most in a positive way, and has no major impact in only two cases: belonging to religious organizations in comparison to Latvia, and law experts in comparison to both Latvia and Lithuania. The Latvian third sector does not have as much impact compared with Estonia and Lithuania. Lithuanian NGOs do not have a major impact only in few cases. However, it should be emphasized that in nine of these relations Lithuanian and in two Latvian NGO sectors are at least partially impact.

This study covers only the relations, which exceed the threshold of 0.51, because it relies on the most impact secondary relations with the NGO group. It is thought, that if the analyzed relations are of major influence to the NGO group, and it is already determined that the NGO sector impacts democracy, they could also be the minor ways of NGOs influence to democracy (see Table 2).

Table 1: **Relation between primary impact factors of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with DEMO group**

Indexes	Estonia		Latvia		Lithuania		Average of countries			Ave-rage
	DD	LD	DD	LD	DD	LD	EST	LV	LT	R
Population belonging to religious NGOs	0,06	0,52	0,95	0,35	0,42	0,18	**0,29**	0,65	**0,30**	0,47
Population belonging to sport NGOs	0,95	0,44	0,25	0,40	0,33	0,55	0,70	0,33	0,44	0,48
Population belonging to music, art, education NGOs	0,94	0,46	0,73	0,35	0,28	0,11	0,70	0,54	**0,19**	0,49
Population belonging to labor NGOs	0,21	1	0,28	1	0,99	0,88	0,60	0,64	0,94	0,73
Population belonging to professional NGOs	0,75	0	0,60	0,11	0,07	0,28	0,38	0,36	**0,18**	**0,30**
Population belonging to other NGOs	0,61	0,03	0,25	0,05	0,09	0,55	0,32	**0,15**	0,32	**0,26**
Supportive registration for NGOs	0,96	0,41	0,25	0	0	0,55	0,69	**0,13**	**0,28**	0,36
Law experts working in NGO sector	0	0	0,25	0,99	1	0,55	**0**	0,62	0,78	0,47
Supportive economic legal regulations for NGOs	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,29**	0,40	0,46
Legal improvement for NGO sector	0,43	0,12	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,90	**0,28**	**0,29**	0,58	0,38
Supportive legal environment for NGOs	0,38	0,97	0	0,68	0,75	0,96	0,68	0,34	0,86	0,62
Framework of NGOs and government cooperation	0,11	0,97	1	0,19	0,25	0,04	0,54	0,60	**0,15**	0,42
NGOs strategic activities	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,29**	0,40	0,46
NGOs professionalism in management	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,99	1	0,55	0,69	0,62	0,78	0,69
Technology integration into NGOs activities	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,29**	0,40	0,46
E-capacities of NGOs	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,29**	0,40	0,46
NGOs professionally organized	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,56	0,48	0,55	0,69	0,41	0,52	0,54
NGOs gets funding from government	0,96	0,41	0,25	0	0	0,55	0,69	**0,13**	**0,28**	0,36
NGOs gets funding from providing services	0,11	0,97	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,54	**0,29**	0,40	0,41
NGOs gets funding from foreign sources	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,19	0,25	0,90	0,69	**0,22**	0,58	0,49
Number of sources NGOs get funding from	0,11	0,97	0,57	0,01	0	0,23	0,54	**0,29**	0,12	0,32
NGOs professionalism in finance management	0,96	0,41	0,25	0	0	0,90	0,69	**0,13**	0,45	0,42
NGOs representation on national level	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,32	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,29**	0,40	0,46
NGOs representation on international level	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,19	0,25	0,55	0,69	**0,22**	0,40	0,44
NGOs professionalism at representation level	0,57	0,88	0,04	0,81	0,75	0,85	0,73	0,43	0,80	0,65
NGOs types of services	0,96	0,41	0,25	0,99	1	0,55	0,69	0,62	0,78	0,69
NGOs active network	0,11	0,97	0,25	0,99	1	0,90	0,54	0,62	0,95	0,70
Number of sectors NGOs work in	0,75	0,74	0	0,65	0,57	0	0,75	0,33	**0,29**	0,45
Major target group of NGOs	0,11	0,97	0	0,19	0,25	0	0,54	**0,10**	**0,13**	**0,25**
Number of NGOs target groups	0,04	0,59	0,25	0,19	0,25	0,55	0,32	**0,22**	0,40	0,31
NGOs information centers	0,49	0,93	0,31	0,57	0,49	0,81	0,71	0,44	0,65	0,60
NGOs highly visibility	0,57	0,88	0,25	0	0	0,55	0,73	**0,13**	**0,28**	0,38
NGOs and media cooperation	0,11	0,97	0,25	0,19	0,25	0,55	0,54	**0,22**	0,40	0,39
NGOs visibility in public	0,96	0,41	0,25	0	0	0,55	0,69	**0,13**	0,28	0,36

* The scores presented in bold shift are considered having no impact to democracy.
** Regression is made with SPSS 14.00.
**** The data for regression analysis are taken from following sources: [1–12; 14; 15].
***** Variables which have constant meaning are excluded.

Table 2: Relation between Secondary Impact Factors of the Baltic Region, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with NGO group

Indexes	Baltic States		Estonia		Latvia		Lithuania		Average of Countries and Region				Ave-rage
	cap	index	cap	index	cap	index	cap	index	BS	EST	LV	LT	R
GDP growth	x	x	0,91	0,90	0,94	0,87	0,01	0,17	x	0,91	0,91	**0,09**	0,63
GDP per capita	x	x	0,56	0,55	0,86	0,95	1	0,73	x	0,56	0,91	0,87	0,78
income of citizens	x	x	0,97	0,97	1	0,71	0,90	0,97	x	0,97	0,86	0,94	0,92
Interpersonal trust of people	x	x	0,83	0,84	0,05	0,56	0,42	0,87	x	0,84	**0,31**	0,65	0,60
People's trust in political parties	x	x	0,21	0,22	0,38	0,91	0,07	0,49	x	**0,22**	0,65	**0,28**	**0,38**
People's trust in government	0,56	0,43	0,12	0,11	0,91	0,37	0,98	0,87	**0,50**	0,12	0,64	0,93	0,54
People's trust in parliament	x	x	0,03	0,03	0,38	0,91	0	0,19	x	**0,03**	0,65	**0,10**	**0,26**
People's trust in NGO	x	x	0,88	0,87	0,92	0,89	0,71	0,23	x	0,88	0,91	**0,47**	0,75
People satisfied with their life	x	x	0,85	0,84	0,96	0,47	0,87	0,98	x	0,85	0,72	0,93	0,83
People's pride of their nationality	0,20	0,31	0,88	0,89	0,00	0,30	0,91	0,96	**0,26**	0,89	**0,15**	0,94	0,56
People's opinion they can act free?	x	x	0,92	0,91	0,26	0,01	0,08	0,50	x	0,92	**0,14**	**0,29**	**0,45**
People's major aim: Price	x	x	0,59	0,60	0,71	1	0,94	0,53	x	0,60	0,86	0,74	0,73
People's major aim: Media	x	x	0,47	0,46	0,30	0	0,86	0,40	x	**0,47**	**0,15**	0,63	**0,42**
People's participation in political actions: Boycotts	0,36	0,51	0,03	0,04	0,09	0,09	0,80	1	**0,44**	**0,04**	**0,09**	0,90	**0,18**
People's participation in political actions: Sign petition	x	x	0,63	0,64	0,98	0,53	0,74	1	x	0,64	0,76	0,87	0,75
People's participation in political actions: Lawful demonstrations	0,24	0,36	0,81	0,80	0,43	0,01	0,84	0,99	**0,30**	0,81	**0,22**	0,92	**0,45**
People's interest in politics	x	x	1	1	0,94	0,42	0,10	0,53	x	1	0,68	**0,32**	0,67
People's participation in unconventional actions	x	x	0,96	0,96	0,88	0,33	0,71	1	x	0,96	0,61	0,86	0,81
Future changes, most important: Less emphasis on money and material possessions	x	x	0,96	0,96	0,46	0,22	1	0,74	x	0,96	**0,34**	0,87	0,72
Future changes, most important: Less importance placed on work	x	x	0,86	0,87	0,51	0,03	0,10	0,03	x	0,87	**0,27**	**0,06**	**0,40**
Future changes, most important: More emphasis on technology	x	x	0,98	0,98	0,01	0,45	0,61	0,97	x	0,98	**0,23**	0,79	0,67
Future changes, most important: More emphasis on individual	x	x	0,07	0,07	0	0,28	0	0,23	x	**0,07**	**0,14**	**0,12**	**0,11**
Future changes, most important: Greater respect for authority	x	x	0,84	0,85	0,99	0,59	0,64	0,98	x	0,85	0,80	0,81	0,82
Future changes, most important: More emphasis on family life	x	x	0,01	0,01	0,98	0,46	0,49	0,92	x	**0,01**	0,73	0,71	**0,48**
Attitudes concerning society radical changes	x	x	0,95	0,96	1	0,65	0,17	0,64	x	0,96	0,83	**0,41**	0,73
Election process	x	x	0,97	0,96	0,82	0,25	0,63	0,98	x	0,97	0,54	0,81	0,77
Independent media	x	x	0,91	0,92	0,67	1	0,63	0,98	x	0,92	0,84	0,81	0,85
Corruption	x	x	1	1	0,18	0,75	0,37	0,02	x	1	**0,47**	**0,20**	0,55
Free economy	0,66	0,84	1	1	0,85	0,28	0,91	0,96	0,75	1	0,57	0,94	0,81
Inflation	x	x	0,96	0,96	0,75	0,17	0,55	0,95	x	0,96	0,46	0,75	0,72
Educated people	0,52	0,75	1	1	0,09	0,63	0,89	0,97	0,64	1	**0,36**	0,93	0,73
Competition in participation	0,14	0,50	0	0	0,82	0,25	0,69	0,99	**0,32**	**0**	0,54	0,84	**0,42**
Participation	0,34	0,69	0,97	0,98	0,62	0,08	0,94	0,94	0,52	0,98	**0,35**	0,94	0,70
Catholic people	x	x	0,58	0,57	0,09	0,63	0,80	1	x	0,58	**0,36**	0,90	0,61
Human development	x	x	0,99	0,99	1	0,64	0,94	0,94	x	0,99	0,82	0,94	0,92
Voter turn out	x	x	0,74	0,73	0,95	0,86	1	0,78	x	0,74	0,91	0,89	0,84

* The scores presented in bold shift are considered not impact to democracy.
** Regression is made with SPSS 14.00.
**** The data for regression analysis are taken from following sources: [1–12; 14; 15].
***** Variables which have constant meaning are excluded.

In the research eight indexes common to NGO and DEMO groups in the whole region have been determined; the threshold has reduced it to three. Any further developments of secondary relations should include the systemic and broader collection of data. Therefore in the case of primary relations, the relation values in all three Baltic countries individually will be explored. For calculation of common average $\underline{R}$ the regional eight indexes have been incorporated, and values of each country. As a result, the thirty six relations have been reduced to twenty six, however, in each country the reduction of relations differs. In the Estonian case twenty eight relations remained of major influence, in Latvia – twenty two, and in Lithuania – twenty six. It should be outlined hereby the number of common relations to each country, which are in all cases a part of average $\underline{R}$ (see Table 2). It is rather difficult to explain the decrease of primary and secondary relations at the final point, but there is a relation of certain qualitative aspects of different countries with political, economic, social and cultural systems.

It could be argued why it has been decided to reduce the final impact primary relations only by three factors, when they impact or partially impact relations, and in other cases, where in individual countries also have partially or non-impact relations, have remained, for instance NGOs funding from providing services, representation on international level. In practice for final results for the whole region, the research tried to apply simple arithmetic calculations by referring to the average score, and it helped to choose the most valuable relations without taking into consideration the average scores of individual countries. The same question could also be raised and for secondary relations, which have been reduced by ten indexes, but this determination of final impact relations helped to define the final model of NGOs impact on democracy. The value of the Baltic States to average $\underline{R}$ has been also incorporated, because it is thought that the appearance of the values of the Baltic States could be misleading as a final result, because it does not face the peculiarities of each country separately. The analysis has helped to clarify how theoretical principles and rules are fulfilled in practice in the Baltic States and each country individually. Finally, the second phase of meta-analysis considered being successful, and hereafter attention has been paid to the most impact relations between the NGO and DEMO groups, which offer a more extensive picture of the processes taking place within the two groups.

2. Application of traffic light model and assessment of its effect

This chapter of the article deals with the measurements of the R value for each primary and secondary factors of influence. Unfortunately, the R value does not correspond to the value of significance. With respect to all primary factors of influence, there are those which are more and less significant. It is difficult to distinguish the character of significance, and not all factors could be explained theoretically, especially from the list of primary factors. Therefore the distribution of factors according to significance is mostly based on a subjective approach, and despite the risk that the choice of significance could be arguable,

it is set to trust this approach, nevertheless, the theoretical factors related to NGOs, democracy and their measurements have always been predominant in this research

The existence of significance is a key factor describing the condition of NGOs influence on democracy in the Baltic States, and in this chapter an original way of measuring the condition of the quality of NGOs' impact is has been applied by using an individually created model of traffic light (TLmodel). The central element of the model is simple; here the significance is determined according to colour approach. Since everyone knows the meaning of the colours of traffic lights, the most reasonable way is to refer to these colours (see Figure 1). The TLmodel determines whether or not the factors of impact are well developed in the Baltic States or they are in need of improvement despite the level of their significance, where the *green* means that the influence factors are well developed and have a high level of quality, smooth support to democracy, the *yellow* – the influence factors are not fully developed and have to be accomplished, little obstacles in support to democracy, the *red* – the influence factors are not developed and need to be extremely improved, obstacles in support to democracy.

The TLmodel covers all primary factors. It offers an in-depth examination of factors that contribute most to the development of democracy in the Baltic States. The TLmodel measures the level of effect and development of factors, it also determines primary factors respectively to each country and the whole region; however, it treats them differently, and is not a complicated procedure so far. Thus to determine the overall situation for the Baltic States and each country, these factors are not weighted equally.

It should be noted, that the following analysis is not applied to secondary factors, because in the last stage of meta-analysis the interest falls in direct influence to democracy, and secondary factors influence democracy in this research indirectly through the third sector, and the application of the TLmodel for the explanation of secondary factors could be mistaken for final conclusions.

Although, the number of primary and secondary factors in each case is different, the weighting of individual factors is not apparent so far. It should be explained, that in general the TLmodel measurement system is based on green, yellow and red colours, so the total number "3" is applied. The grading system which has been applied before from "0" to "1", this time will have different thresholds. "1" is divisible into 3 parts, due of the total of colours used, and therefore the first maximum is 0.33, the second - 0.66, and the third - 1.

However, before the index of significance will be calculated, the categorization of factors should be exercised. The later task will be performed by the application of Sturges formula [14]. In the Sturges formula small n shows in how many categories factors could be distributed, and large N shows the number of factors. Having the list of impact factors, first of all the factors are remunerated by impact meaning from 1 to *N,* where hierarchic remunerations is based on subjective approach (see Table 3). Later on for determination (n) the *b* can be calculated by integrating small n. (*b= 1 : n)* Moreover, each factor has a value of impact *(a)* reflective to R calculated in

the previous chapter, while trying to set the overall score of effect β, value of impact is multiplied with weight index *b*. ($\beta = a \times b$)

Table 3: **The most impacting factors in the Baltic States distributed according to their significance**

	Factors according to their significance	a	b	β
1	Index of NGOs professionally organized	0.54	1	0.54
2	Index of NGOs professionalism in management	0.69	1	0.69
3	Index of supportive legal environment for NGOs	0.62	0.75	0.46
4	Index of NGOs professionalism at representation level	0.65	0.75	0.48
5	Index of NGOs active network	0.70	0.50	0.35
6	Index of NGOs types of services	0.69	0.50	0.35
7	Index of Population belonging to labour NGOs	0.73	0.25	0.18
8.	Number of NGOs information centres	0.60	0.25	0.15

Figure 1: Application of the TLmodel with NGO primary impacting factors of Baltic States
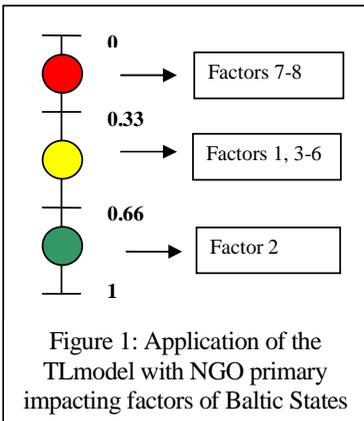
In the current analysis it is notified that out of two the most effective factors, factor 2, is well developed and factor 1 is not completely developed and should be accomplished. Effective factors 3 and 4 are also not completely developed and the instruments of influence on democracy should be refined, as well as less effective factors 5 and 6, and finally the least effective factors should be extremely developed, and the instruments should be radically changed (see Figure 1). According to this ranking, only one factor out of eight most impacts factors is well developed and influence to democracy is effective. However, other factors should be improved.

Continuing the study, the TLmodel is applied to partially impact factors dividing them according to their significance from 1 to 23 (see Table 4). According to the analysis, none of the most effective factors fall into the green colour, it means that there are no factors, which are well developed and smoothly support democracy. The partially impacting factors, which are the most effective, fall into the yellow colour, and it means that they should be developed and minor changes should appear. However, the majority of less and least effective factors fall under the yellow and red colours, it shows that there should be additional actions taken into consideration for improvement (see Figure 2).

It has been identified that the majority of impact factors belong to the red colour. Such result proves that the majority of impact factors despite their level of influence and significance should be improved and developed more effectively in the Baltic States (see

Figure 3). Analyzing each Baltic state individually, not only numbers of impact factors differ, but also the determination of significance. (see Table.5).

Table 4: **The partially impacting factors in the Baltic States distributed according to their significance**

|	**Factors according to their significance**	**a**	**b**	**β**
1	Index of supportive registration for NGOs	0.36	1	0.36
2	Index of supportive economic legal regulations for NGOs	0.46	1	0.46
3	Index of legal improvement for NGO sector	0.38	1	0.38
4	Index of framework of NGOs and government cooperation	0.42	1	0.42
5	Index of number of sources NGOs get funding from	0.32	0.83	0.27
6	Index of NGOs professionalism in finance management	0.42	0.83	0.35
7	Index of NGOs representation on national level	0.46	0.83	0.38
8	Index of NGOs representation on international level	0.44	0.83	0.44
9	Index of NGOs gets funding from government	0.36	0.66	0.37
10	Index of NGOs gets funding from foreign sources	0.49	0.66	0.32
11	Index of NGOs gets funding from providing services	0.41	0.66	0.27
12	Index of Population belonging to religious NGOs	0.47	0.66	0.31
13	Index of Population belonging to sport NGOs	0.48	0.49	0.24
14	Index of Population belonging to music, art, education NGOs	0.49	0.49	0.24
15	Index of NGOs strategic activities	0.46	0.49	0.23
16	Index of law experts working in NGO sector	0.47	0.49	0.23
17	Index of NGOs highly visibility	0.38	0.32	0.12
18	Index of NGOs visibility in public	0.36	0.32	0.12
19	Index of number of sectors NGOs work in	0.45	0.32	0.14
20	Index of number of NGOs target groups	0.31	0.32	0.10
21	Index of NGOs and media cooperation	0.39	0.17	0.13
22	Index of technology integration into NGOs activities	0.46	0.17	0.07
23	Index of e-capacities of NGOs	0.46	0.17	0.08
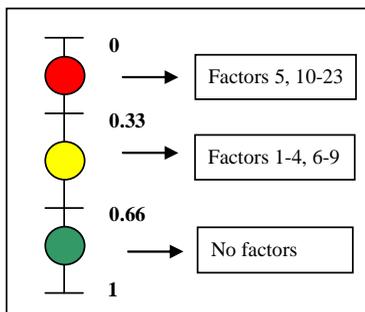
Figure 2: Application of the TLmodel with NGO primary partially impacting factors of Baltic States
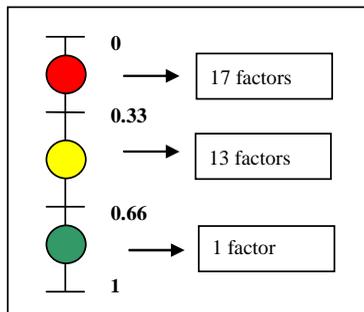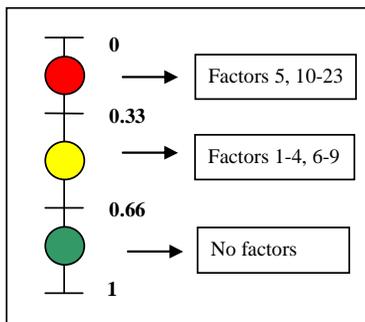
Figure 3: The condition of factors of influence in the Baltic States

Table 5: **The most impacting factors in Estonia distributed according to their significance**

	Factors according to their significance	a	b	β
1	Index of NGOs professionally organized	0.69	1	0.69
2	Index of NGOs professionalism in management	0.69	1	0.69
3	Index of supportive legal environment for NGOs	0.68	1	0.68
4	Index of supportive economic legal regulations for NGOs	0.69	1	0.69
5	Index of supportive registration for NGOs	0.69	1	0.69
6	Index of framework of NGOs and government cooperation	0.54	0.83	0.54
7	Index of number of sources NGOs get funding from	0.54	0.83	0.54
8	Index of NGOs professionalism in finance management	0.69	0.83	0.69
9	Index of NGOs professionalism at representation level	0.73	0.83	0.73
10	Index of NGOs gets funding from government	0.69	0.83	0.46
11	Index of NGOs gets funding from foreign sources	0.69	0.66	0.46
12	Index of NGOs gets funding from providing services	0.54	0.66	0.36
13	Index of NGOs representation on national level	0.69	0.66	0.46
14	Index of NGOs representation on international level	0.69	0.66	0.46
15	Index of Population belonging to sport NGOs	0.70	0.66	0.46
16	Index of Population belonging to music, art, education NGOs	0.70	0.49	0.46
17	Index of Population belonging to labour NGOs	0.60	0.49	0.39
18	Index of NGOs strategic activities	0.69	0.49	0.46
19	Index of NGOs highly visibility	0.73	0.49	0.24
20	Index of NGOs visibility in public	0.69	0.49	0.23
21	Index of NGOs active network	0.54	0.32	0.18
22	Index of NGOs types of services	0.69	0.32	0.23
23	Index of number of sectors NGOs work in	0.75	0.32	0.25
24	Index of major target group of NGOs	0.54	0.32	0.19
25	Number of NGOs information centres	0.71	0.32	0.23
26	Index of NGOs and media cooperation	0.54	0.17	0.18
27	Index of technology integration into NGOs activities	0.69	0.17	0.23
28	Index of e-capacities of NGOs	0.69	0.17	0.23

The most effective five factors are all well developed. Moreover even among effective factors there are those falling into yellow colour, for instance, the index of NGOs' professionalism in finance management and the index of NGOs' professionalism at representation level. Still, the majority of less and least effective factors share yellow and red colours and should improved, in some cases from 19-28 even extremely in visibility, e-capacities, networking and so on (see Figure 4).

As already mentioned, the partially impacting factors impact democracy, as well as the most impacting factors, however Estonia has only three factors of such kind (indexes of Population belonging to professional NGOs, Population belonging to other NGOs, Number of NGOs target groups). Among partially impacting factors the most effective is belonging to the index of professional NGOs and it falls into the yellow colour, which means that it should be

developed more qualitatively, and two other factors: belonging to other NGOs and the number of target groups should be extremely improved, because they fall into red colour.

The situation in Estonia seems to be promising, because even seven factors, where the most significant, are well developed, and twelve of the most impacting and significant factors fall into the yellow colour. However, twelve most factors fall into red colour, despite the fact that these factors are of least significance (see Figure 5).
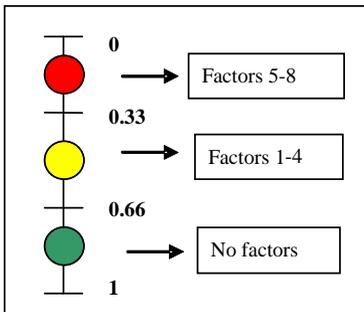

Figure 4: Application of the TLmodel with NGO primary impacting factors of Estonia
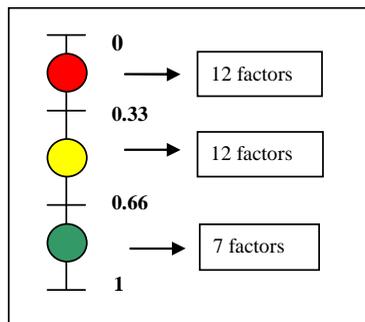
Figure 5: The condition of factors of influence in Estonia

The situation in Latvia differs from one in Estonia. Firstly, Latvia has only eight most impacting factors. (see Table 6). There are two most effective factors and they both fall under the yellow colour, consequently they should be improved and some minor changes should appear, the majority of impact factors still fall under the yellow and red colours, and it points that such factors as the index of population belonging to labour NGOs, the index of law experts working in the NGO sector, the index of NGOs active network, the index of NGOs' active network, the index of NGOs' types of services should be extremely developed (see Figure 6).

There are seven partially impacting factors in Latvia (indexes of NGOs professionally organized, Supportive legal environment for NGOs, NGOs professionalism at representation level, Number of sectors NGOs work in, Population belonging to professional NGOs, Population belonging to sport NGOs, NGOs information centres) .Index of professionally organized NGOs and supportive legal environment are the most effective, professionalism at representation level and the number of sectors in which NGOs work are effective, and less and least effective factors are belonging to professional and sport NGOs, and the number of NGOs information centres. None of these factors fall into the green colour, the most effective factors fall into yellow and the rest of the factors belong to the red colour, and such situation suggests that these factors should be more or even extremely developed.

Table 6: **The most impacting factors in Latvia distributed according to their significance**

	Factors according to their significance	a	b	β
1	Index of NGOs professionalism in management	0.62	1	0.62
2	Index of framework of NGOs and government cooperation	0.60	1	0.60
3	Index of Population belonging to religious NGOs	0.65	0.75	0.49
4	Index of Population belonging to music, art, education NGOs	0.54	0.75	0.41
5	Index of Population belonging to labor NGOs	0.64	0.50	0.32
6	Index of law experts working in NGO sector	0.62	0.50	0.31
7	Index of NGOs active network	0.62	0.25	0.16
8	Index of NGOs types of services	0.62	0.25	0.16

The dominant colour in Latvia is red, even seven factors belong to this colours, and it shows that the instrument of NGO influence to democracy should be improved a lot; yellow colour involves 5 factors and green colour only 3. Professionalism in NGO management, environment of government and NGO cooperation, and people's membership in religious NGOs are mostly developed, and their influence to democracy is smooth (see Figure 7).

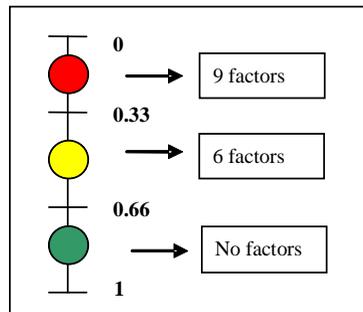Figure 6: Application of the TLmodel with NGO primary impacting factors of Latvia

Figure 7: The condition of factors of influence in Latvia

Lithuania has twenty three impacting and partially impacting factors on democracy. (see Table 7). There are two factors, which are most effective and only one of them is well developed, two – effective, and here only one factor is well developed, still the rest of less and least effective factors are not fully developed or not developed at all (see Figure 8).

The distribution of partially impacting factors does not differ much from the one above. There are twelve partially impacting factors in Lithuania (indexes of Supportive economic legal regulations for NGOs, NGOs professionalism in finance management, NGOs representation on national level, NGOs representation on international level, NGOs gets funding from providing services, Population belonging to sport NGOs, Population belonging to other NGOs, NGOs strategic activities, Number of NGOs target groups,

NGOs and media cooperation, Technology integration into NGOs activities, E-capacities of NGOs). Despite the fact that there are four factors, which are considered to be effective enough, none of them are well developed. The most effective factors in relation to democracy fall under the yellow colour, and hereafter should be improved a little, however, other factors fall into the red colour and it means that development of partially impacting factors should take particular improvement.

Table 7: **The most impacting factors in Lithuania distributed according to their significance**

	Factors according to their significance	a	b	β
1	Index of NGOs professionally organized	0.52	1	0.52
2	Index of NGOs professionalism in management	0.78	1	0.78
3	Index of supportive legal environment for NGOs	0.86	0.80	0.69
4	Index of legal improvement for NGO sector	0.58	0.80	0.46
5	Index of NGOs professionalism at representation level	0.80	0.60	0.48
6	Index of NGOs gets funding from foreign sources	0.58	0.60	0.35
7	Index of Population belonging to labor NGOs	0.94	0.40	0.38
8	Index of NGOs types of services	0.78	0.40	0.31
9	Index of NGOs active network	0.95	0.20	0.19
10	Index of law experts working in NGO sector	0.78	0.20	0.16
11	Number of NGOs information centers	0.65	0.20	0.13

The dominant colour in Lithuanian case is red, and it means that the majority of all impact-ting factors even 14 should be perfected, however, what is positive that even seven factors belong to the yellow colour and it means that at least 50% of effective relations between NGOs and democracy are developed enough or are at least standing on the right way (see Figure 9).
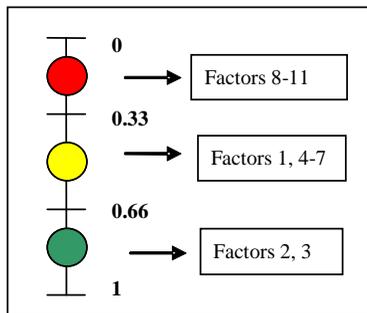

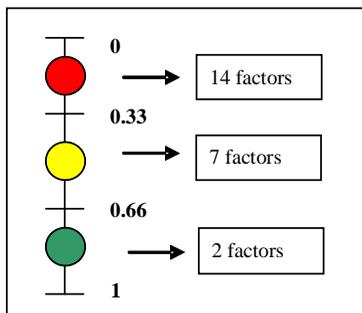Figure 8: Application of the TLmodel with NGO primary impacting factors of Lithuania

Figure 9: The condition of factors of influence in Lithuania

In summary, it appears that the countries differ a little bit with respect to the requirements of NGOs influence on democracy. The only important cleavage which appears is between Estonia and the other Baltic countries, and also the whole region. The chief difference between them is the necessity to develop the impact factors in Latvia, Lithuania, and the whole region in general (see Figure 10).
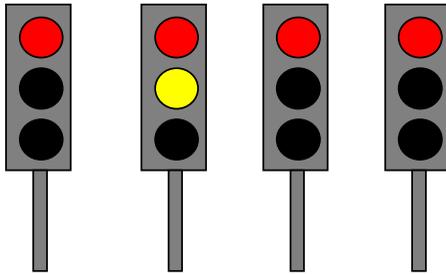
Traffic light of Baltic States   Traffic light of Estonia   Traffic light of Latvia   Traffic light of Lithuania

Figure 10: Model of traffic light: level of NGOs influence on democracy in the Baltic Region

Moreover, the overall impression regarding the quality and effectiveness of NGOs' influence on democracy in the countries and the whole region is that, NGO supportive environment is not completely guaranteed in the sector of influence to democracy, which in turn may pose serious problems for further development of democracy.

Conclusions

The research showed, firstly, that the third sector does impact democracy in the Baltic States, secondly that in all three countries the ways in which NGOs influence democracy differ, thirdly as well as the level of influence towards democracy. Moreover, it highlighted that the relation between non-governmental organizations and democracy is an unevenly developing process. It also gives the opportunity to assume that there are additional ways of NGOs to impact democracy through secondary resources, on the one hand secondary impacting factors influence democracy directly, however, on the other hand their influence could be filtered through NGOs, expressing the following chain: while external factors impact NGOs, the latter in addition influence democracy from a different perspective.

The research assumed that the optimal model of relation between non-governmental organizations and democracy in the Baltic States should have thirty one most effective and qualitatively developed impact realities; however, the present situation shows that the majority of factors has partial impact or is not developed in relation to democracy.

Despite the fact that the determination of effectiveness of factors and the level of their development in the context of democracy has been made, it should be clearly stated that factors of influence and the traffic-light model contain general weaknesses, this model fails to capture all relevant aspects of democratic development: most notably, the impact of factors outside the NGO group, the role of international factors, like globalization or integration. This

empirical outcome is not fully consistent with most scholars' conceptualization of democracy.

Despite the potential failings, the primary and secondary factors of impact and the traffic light model have strong points too. For instance, it provides a good picture of NGOs' role in democracy, as well as some specific information about the primary and secondary issues towards democracy transformation in the Baltic States. Moreover, by using such an innovative measurement model and other measures, this research offers not only a comparative overview of NGOs influence to democracy, but also a quantitative and qualitative account of NGOs achievements towards democracy.

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Saulė Mačiukaitė-Žvinienė

Baltijos šalių nevyriausybinių organizacijų sektorius ir demokratijos empirinės refleksijos: meta-analizės rezultatai (II dalis)

Santrauka

Šis straipsnis yra antroji meta-analizės dalis, kurią taikant nagrinėjamas santykis tarp nevyriausybinių organizacijų sektoriaus ir demokratijos. Tas santykis vertinamas taikant regresiją, kuri leidžia nustatyti NVO įtakos faktorius, turėjusius didžiausios įtakos ir prisidėjusius prie demokratijos plėtros Baltijos šalyse bendrai ir kiekvienoje iš Baltijos šalių atskirai. Straipsnyje taikomas individualus „šviesoforo" modelis, kurį taikant vertinamas įtakos faktorių efektyvumas demokratijos kontekste. Tyrimo rezultatai parodė, kad nevyriausybinių organizacijų sektorius daro įtaką demokratijos plėtrai Baltijos šalyse. Daroma prielaida, kad svarbiausi NVO įtakos faktoriai, taip pat įtakos efektyvumo lygmuo visose Baltijos šalyse skiriasi. Tyrimo rezultatai ne tik leido palyginti nevyriausybinių organizacijų įtaką demokratijos plėtrai Baltijos šalyse, bet taip pat parodė kiekybinius ir kokybinius NVO įtakos segmentus, kurie gali būti taikomi ir toliau plėtojant šį tyrimą, taip pat taikomi analizuojant demokratijos plėtrą ir kitose šalyse.