

# *THE SPHERE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS IN BELARUS BEFORE AND AFTER 2020*

*Alexander Malyarenko*

*WEASA Alumnus*



# *Presentation plan*

- *NGO sphere in Belarus until 2020*
- *NGOs in 2020*
- *NGO sphere after August 2020*

A person wearing VR goggles and holding a controller, with a map of Belarus in the background. The scene is lit with blue and red light, and there are faint constellation lines in the background.

*Development of the NGO sphere in Belarus until 2020*



- *There are quite a lot of NGOs registered in Belarus*
- *But the fact of registration does not mean the actual functioning*
- *And the fact of work does not really mean the impact on society and interaction with people*
- *The development of the NGO sphere in Belarus is based on complex intertwined direct and indirect factors: from the dynamics of the national economy to foreign policy factors*
- *Year 2020 is an important milestone for NGO in Belarus*

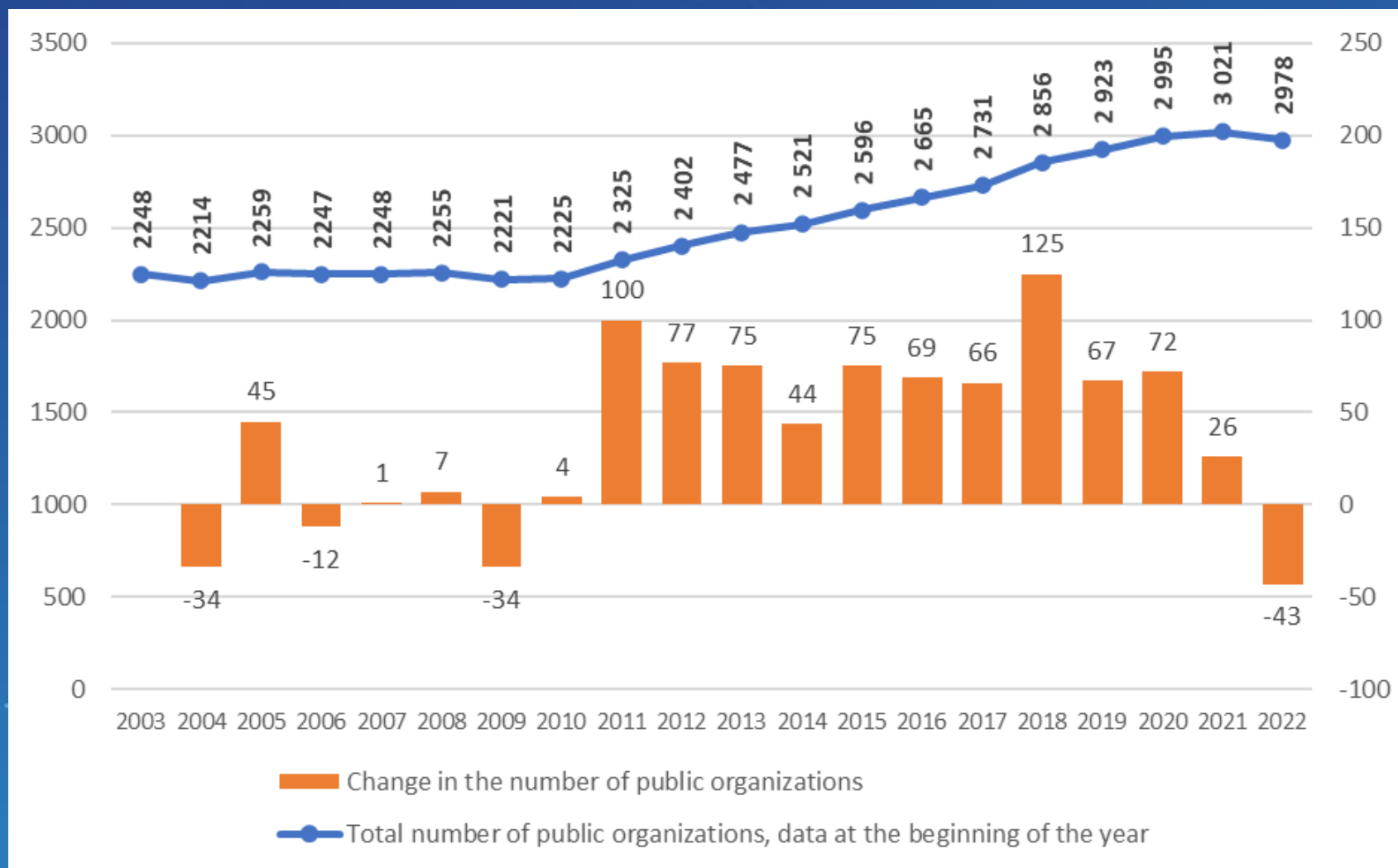


## *2022 : The scope of public organizations according to the Ministry of Justice*

- 15 political parties*
- 25 trade unions*
- 2978 public associations (226 international, 785 republican and 1967 local)*
- 45 unions (associations) of public associations*
- 227 foundations*
- 7 republican state - public associations*



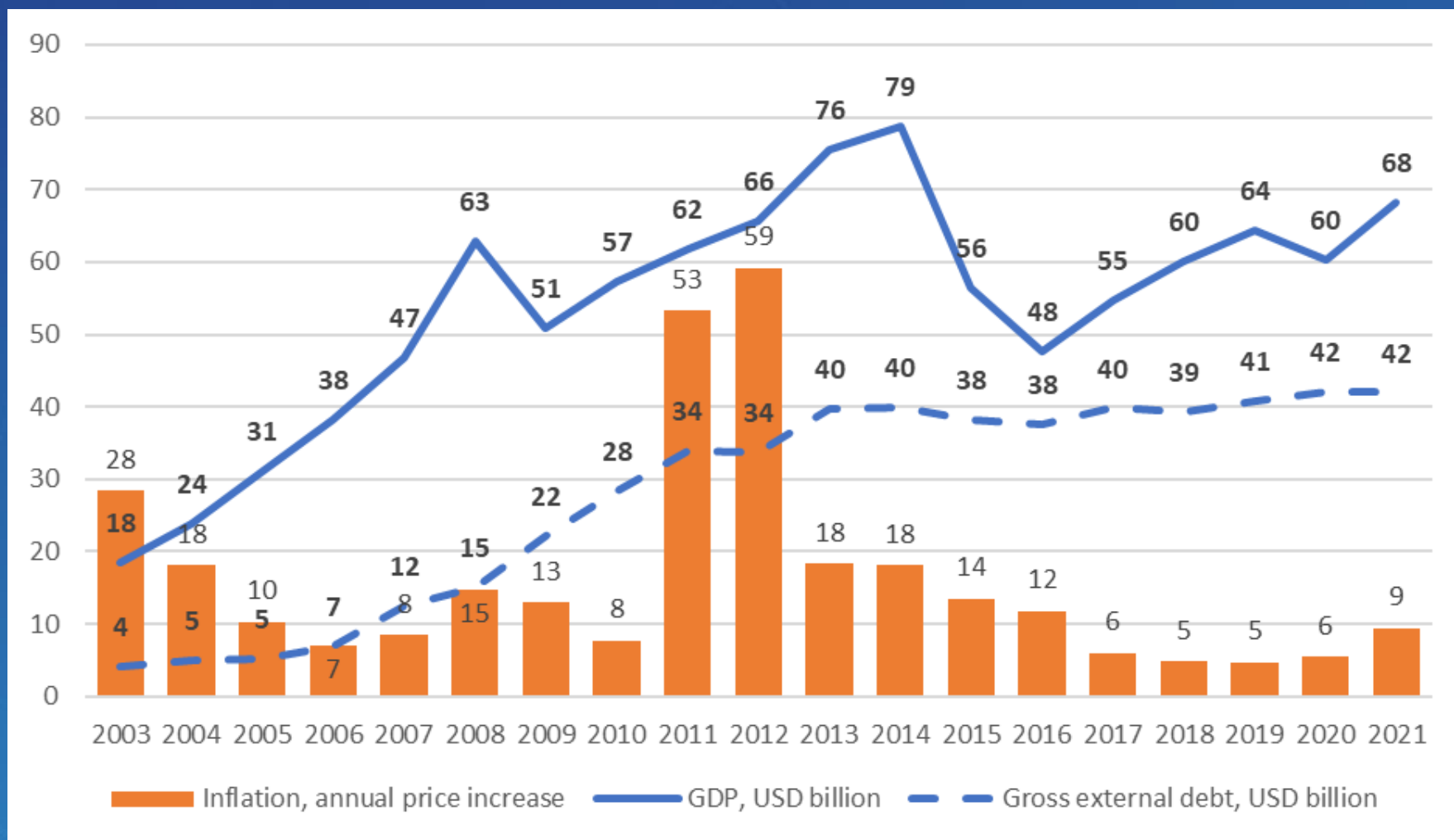
# Dynamics of the number of public registered public organizations in Belarus



## *Public associations in 2021*

- *1% female*
- *2% creative*
- *3% scientific and technical*
- *3% supporters of nature, monuments of history, culture*
- *3% war and labor invalids, veterans*
- *4% national minorities*
- *8% educational, cultural and leisure, educational youth*
- *13% charitable*
- *22% other public associations*
- *28% physical culture and sports*

# Dynamics of macroeconomic indicators of the development of Belarus





# NGO: political, economic and social context

Construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant

Joint projects with the EU: Eastern Partnership, Bologna Process, etc.

Problems of migration and refugees

Placement in Belarus of foreign military bases

Crimea 2014



## *Features of work and promotion*

- *new mechanism for attracting funds (crowdfunding)*
- *new formats of working with target audiences - various hackathons, eduthons and other forms of creative work*
- *use of state media*
- *relationship with the development of the IT sector*

# *NGOs in 2020*



# NGOs in 2020

- *peculiarity of the socio-economic development of Belarus in 2020 was the simultaneous action of several unfavorable factors for the state at once: COVID, economic shocks and the growth of politicization*
- *public organizations, for the most part, were not direct participants in political activity*
- *activities of NGOs in Belarus contributed to the formation of stable horizontal ties*
- *NGOs in Belarus until 2020 have played an important role in reducing paternalism in the Belarusian society*

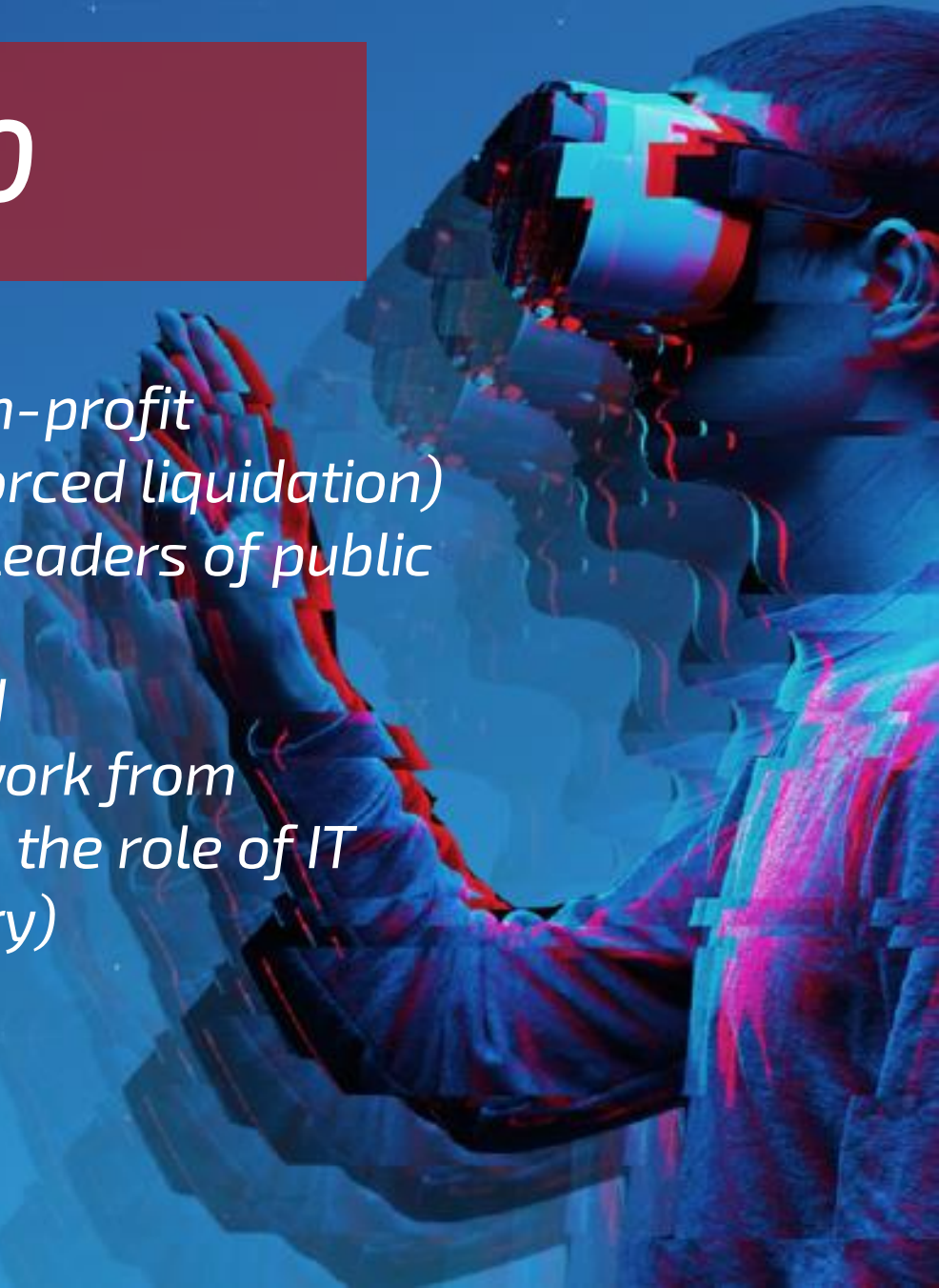


*NGO sphere after August 2020*

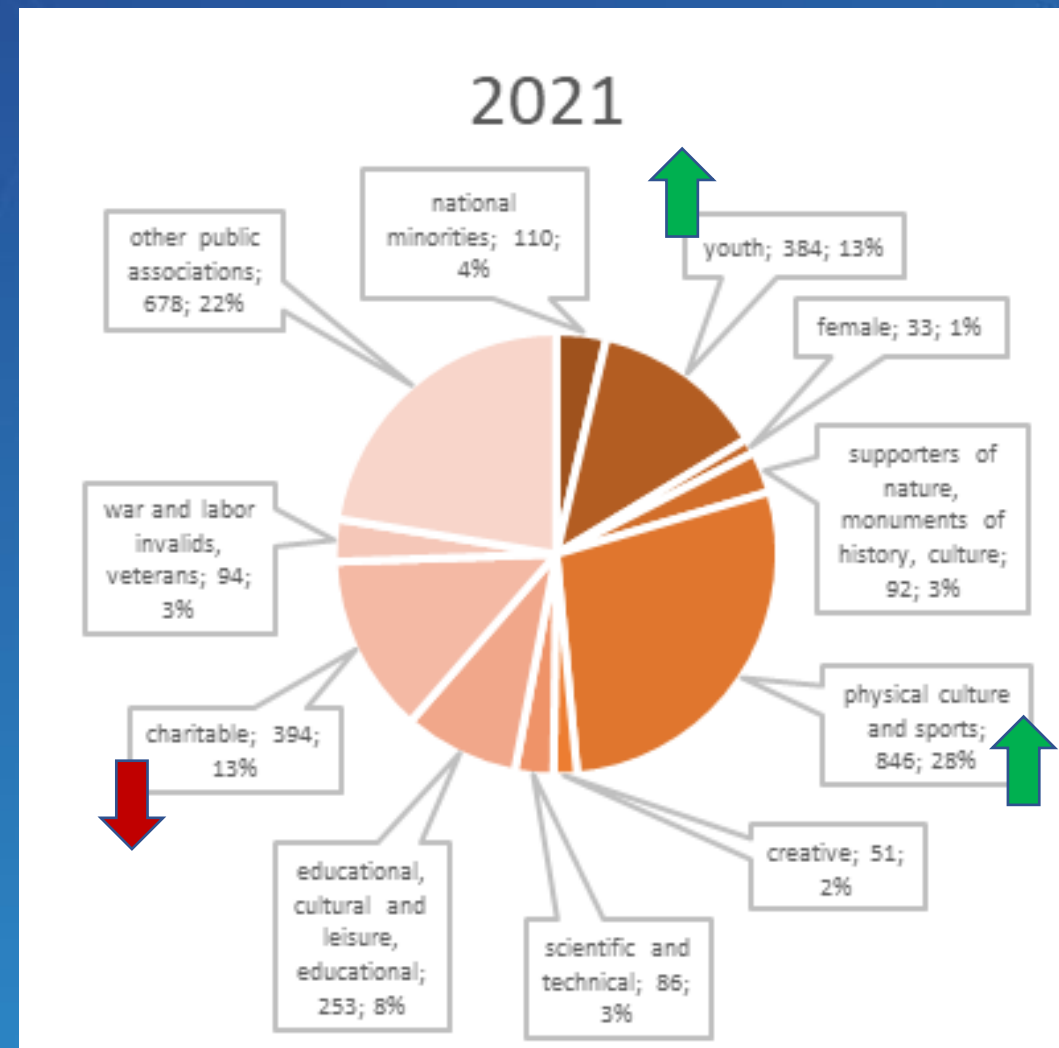
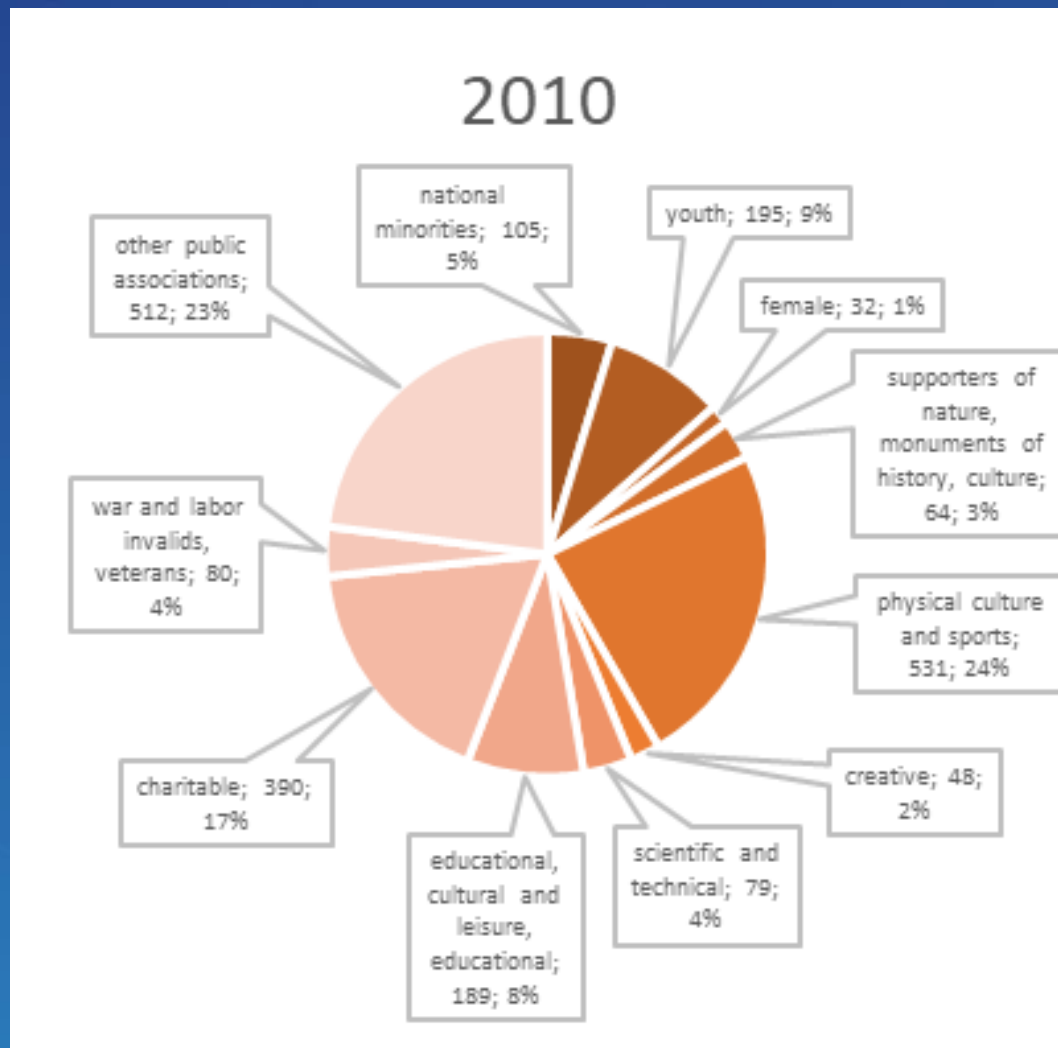


# *NGO sphere after August 2020*

- mass liquidation of public associations (366 non-profit organizations in Belarus are in the process of forced liquidation)*
- A significant number of active participants and leaders of public associations were imprisoned*
- NGO employees and activists have gone abroad*
- new format of work (work with the diaspora, work from geographically dispersed offices, strengthening the role of IT solutions in work, partial work within the country)*



# Structure of public organizations of Belarus by areas of their activity





# *Conclusions*





- *The state of the sphere of public organizations in Belarus after 2020 should be characterized as a crisis*
- *the sphere of public organizations in Belarus is undergoing a qualitative shift - NGO sphere is transforming in the new conditions*
- *the problem of losing connection with Belarus and its current agenda*
- *improving the conditions for the activities of public organizations in Belarus will depend entirely on the development of the socio-economic and political crisis*



*Thank you for your attention*

