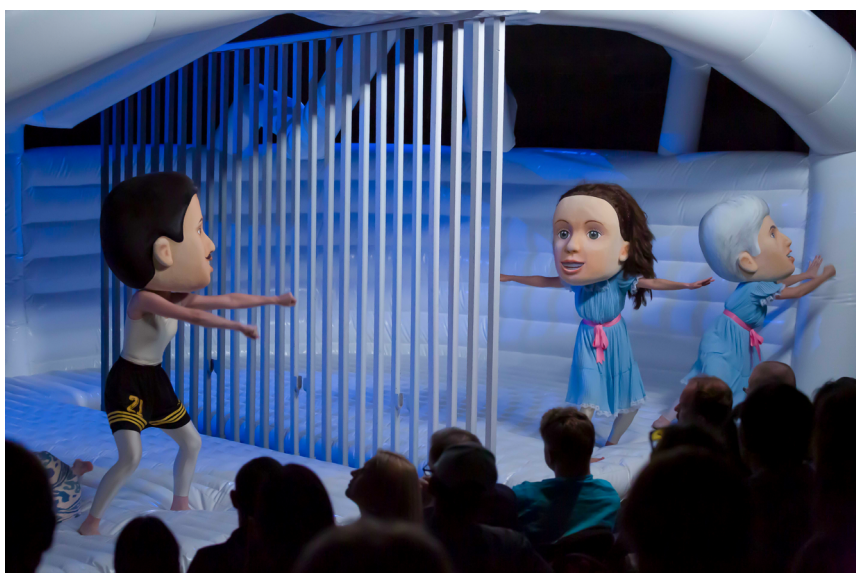




Governance, Human Rights & Service Delivery Central Asia Art and Culture Programme



Performance of «Underground girls», picture by Ilkhom theatre

The Swiss Central Asia Art and Culture Programme (CAACP) was launched in 2007, building on the vision of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. It has been recognized as an innovative, effective and context-adapted vehicle to promote universal values such as democratic principles, openness, and diversity as well as for strengthening cultural dynamics and social cohesion in communities.

Rationale

The cultural landscape in Central Asia is characterized by state-encouraged prevalence of folk-/traditional art. In contrast, contemporary art based on free artistic expression and organized by independent actors is scarce. Alternative, independent art and culture actors encounter significant challenges in producing and disseminating their work due to a lack of resources. The general public appreciates artistic work as it provides rare opportunities to get exposed to diverse voices and forms that reflect on their lives and the society they live in.

Country:

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

Duration:

2023 – 2027

Total Budget (Current Phase):

CHF 2'560'000

Partners:

Art and culture entities, associations, theatres conservatories, galleries, NGOs, art and culture specialists

Implementing Agency:

Self-implemented

Overall Goal

The objective of the current CAACP Phase is to foster the further development of a vibrant and open art and culture scene in Central Asia that contributes to preserving freedom of expression and enhances social cohesion in the region. The CAACP offers cultural institutions, including theatres, museums, musical groups and art schools – in both urban and rural areas – and artists opportunities to create a platform that enables people, including left-behind groups, to address issues affecting their lives and contribute to positive social change.

Outcomes and envisaged results

Regional Outcome: Regional art and culture networks, exchange platforms and initiatives provide open spaces where artists from the different countries in Central Asia are free to create, meet their audience, and express their views on issues affecting the life of people, especially vulnerable groups. This shall promote regional dialogue and social cohesion.

Outcome in Uzbekistan: Artists, cultural institutions and their audiences exercise their freedom of expression in organizing and/or participating in art events that represent a diversity of voices, opinions and cultural expressions. The Programme's national outcome for Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan is to promote freedom of expression as well as diversity in cultural expression through strengthening the institutional capacities of art organisations and promoting dialogue with audience.

Target groups

Arts and culture institutions, individual artists and their audience in urban and rural areas.

Previous phase results

CAACP supported the development of nine partner organizations in the cultural sphere, which have raised the quality and diversity of their productions while expanding their activities geographically. CAACP allowed to create 31 open spaces and platforms for diverse, alternative, and innovative artistic expressions in Uzbekistan. In total, around 4'000 artists benefited from the Programme. The general coverage of the public within the country (online and offline) reached 15'000 people. Most of the activities had a regional component in the form of exchanges, collaboration, and networking. The activities covered diverse social subjects such as identity and history, gender, environment and climate change, migration, inclusivity and equal opportunity for all.

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