

**Guidance for the submission for
Central Asia Regional Arts and Culture Programme 2.0. (CAACP 2.0.)
Regional Open Call
Submission deadline 30.11.2023**

Artistic and free creations for better diversity, social cohesion and peace

I. Introduction

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) considers Art and Culture as an integral and indispensable part of development, as is reflected in the SDC Culture and Development Policy:

- Culture as a resource and right
- Cultural diversity as a part of the heritage of humanity
- Intercultural dialogue and exchange as a foundation for peace
- Artistic expression as a driver of change

SDC has successfully supported cultural projects in Central Asia since 1998; the Regional Art and Culture Programme 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 and to strengthen social and cultural dynamics and social cohesion in communities.

Throughout its 15 years of previous work, the Central Asia Art and Culture Programme (CAACP 1.0.) furthered safe spaces for independent Art and Culture. In total SDC empowered nine strong art organizations where diverse artists and their audiences, including left-behind groups, could freely express themselves and communicate. The CAACP 1.0. helped to establish networks of art and culture professionals from various regions of Central Asia (CA). Through cultural activities such as documentary film displays, educational training, performances, festivals, concerts and exhibitions, artists and activists could raise sensitive issues that matter to diverse groups.

CAACP enters in a new phase with introducing a call of proposals as working modalities. This guidance provides important information on the new process to interested independent art and culture organizations.

II. Goal and strategic focus of CAACP 2.0.

The SDC launches the new Central Asia Regional Arts and Culture Programme 2.0. (CAACP 2.0.), which will last until July 2027, with a coverage in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The CAACP 2.0. aims to support a vibrant, open art and culture scene in Central Asia, promoting freedom of expression and social cohesion through diverse artistic expressions.

Through the CAACP 2.0. the SDC prioritizes the support for independent art and culture creators in the region as active civil society members. **Theatre, visual arts, music, art management, cinema and animation are focus domains of the CAACP 2.0.** Projects may have intersectoral (cultural policies, media, education, tourism, IT) activities.

Overall outcome for the CAACP 2.0.:

Regional art and culture networks, exchanges, and/or initiatives provide open spaces where artists are free to create, can meet their audience, and can express their views on issues affecting the lives of people, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, and promote social cohesion and dialogue.

The CAACP 2.0. will support projects that:

- **Empower artists, cultural institutions,** and their audiences in artistic creations and **freedom of expression**; engage people in a **diverse cultural activity** that reflects a wide variety of voices and opinions;
- Support **regional artistic platform, a networks or initiatives** that enable people, including left-behind groups, to address issues affecting their lives and contribute to positive social change and cohesion;
- Create **joint art initiatives within the region and between different stakeholders** for collaborative efforts to tackle mutual challenges, which is essential for the region's development;
- Intensify **intercultural dialogue and exchange for better representation of Central Asian art and culture abroad,** garnering recognition and further support;
- **Promote gender equality and inclusiveness** – especially women artists shall be empowered. Leave no one behind (LNOB) principles shall be applied in any actions and art creation processes;
- **Involve youth, socially vulnerable groups and people from cross-border areas;** to increase interest and understanding of diverse and different art and cultures, as a cohesion and peacebuilding actions;
- **Apply innovative approaches** including new technologies for better content creation, dissemination, and promotion.

The CAACP 2.0. will support independent art and culture in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan by providing funds for:

- **Regional projects through the Regional Open Call;**
- **National organizations through the National Open Calls in the covered countries.**

For detailed information you can contact Swiss representations at:

- [Embassy of Switzerland in Bishkek](#), Kyrgyzstan
- [Swiss Cooperation Office in Dushanbe](#), Tajikistan
- [Embassy of Switzerland in Tashkent](#), Uzbekistan

III. Who is eligible to apply for the Regional Open Call?

- The applying art and culture organization must be registered, located, and operating in either Kyrgyzstan, in Tajikistan or in Uzbekistan.
- The legal status might be NGOs, Not-for-Profit organizations, public funds, or LLC forms, and the organization's mission and activities should be in art and culture area.
- Applicants must show previous experience in regional activities or a solid commitment to building a regional coalition and networking, demonstrating a strong motivation to work regionally.
- The applicant has an appropriate artistic and organizational capacity (accounting, administration, and personnel), allowing an efficient and transparent implementation and monitoring of the regional project.

- Organizations may apply for the regional call even if they are already participating in events funded by SDC at national levels.

The following will not be eligible for support:

- Personal exhibitions, concerts, performances in CA regions etc.
- Publishing of monographs, books etc.
- Production of feature films
- Organization of anniversary events, charity events
- Travel grants (e.g., participation in festivals, study tours, etc.)
- Hardware support (equipment and/or constructions materials)
- Scholarships or grants for personal needs
- Running costs of the applying organization
- Projects connected to the safeguarding cultural heritage (architectural)

IV. Technical and Financial requirements:

The applying organization should fulfill the eligibility criteria (Chapter III), and the technical and financial requirements (Chapter IV) **Note:** Only complete packages of documents will be considered by SDC. (For the documents see chap. VI)

The SDC selection committee will evaluate submitted applications along the following criteria:

- **Quality of the Proposal:** Relevance and feasibility of project objectives, activities plan on the regional level, and adequacy of budgeted expenditures. Gender equality and inclusiveness will be considered as a key element of the relevance.
- **Level of the regional (CA) integration:** Explicit description of regional partners' involvement for joint project implementation, regional coverage and regional networking.
- **The capacity of the organization:** Available potential (artistic and administrative) of the applicant to implement the regional project. Actions planned to ensure sustainability of the project results or/and steps after project completion.

Technical information

- The project proposal template will be provided, please be precise in terms of goals, activity plan that will be implemented on regional level and audience involvement.
- The duration of the project should adjust the proposed activities, may not exceed 14 months.
- Applicant should describe not only activities on regional level but provide information on how partner organizations from neighboring countries (KG, TJ, UZ) are involved in the project implementation as a regional consortium.
- For regional consortium, one organization (Applicant) must be designated as the **single point of contact (SPOC)** for coordination with SDC and among partners. The SPOC is responsible for meeting contractual regulations, writing operational reports, and submitting financial reports.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** Reporting (financial and operational) templates will be provided after signing the contract.
- **Visibility rules:** Applicant receiving SDC support, should mention in all external communication materials SDC support with prior approval of SDC representatives.
- No prior discussion or consultation will be provided by SDC representatives during application preparation stage.

Financial information

- Any regional proposal's budget shall have a minimum of 50,000 CHF to a maximum of 100,000 CHF; winners will get the disbursement of funds with several installments.
- The SDC finances **maximum 80% of the overall project costs while at least 20%** of the total budget **must be secured** through other donors co-financing, fundraising, or their own financial or in-kind resources.
- The overheads may include bank fees and only administrative costs related to the project. No other running costs of the applicant organization are accepted.
- The template for the budget cost description will be provided and should reflect all costs related to the project. Costs not provided in the budget will not be accepted at the stage of implementation. Please clearly mention contribution parts (other project partners or own) and check calculations.
- The budget currency for the selection process should be provided in USD. However, in case of the application approval before the contract signing budget should be modified to the national currency of the applicant's country of residence; The SDC regulation for the applicant's accounting checking will apply at the contracting stage.

V. Timeline

Application submission deadline is 30.11.2023!

- Application documentation (as attachment) should be sent to email tashkent.opencallcaacp@eda.admin.ch with the title "CAACP 2.0. Regional Open call." Please make sure that you receive confirmation that the programme manager has received your application.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.
- The selection process is planned for December 2023 - January 2024, and winner announcement and further contracting in February 2024. Please take into account this point for activities planning.

VI. Application and complimentary documents

The following documents must be provided as a whole package of the application form:

1. Project proposal (in English language and WORD format)
2. Budget (Excel format)
3. An official document providing information about the applicant organization's legal status (Charter, certificate of registration from the appropriate government organization, bank details, copy of the director's passport, in one PDF file format with good quality)
4. Applicant – organization's portfolio that describes goal, mission, organization structure/chart and information about team; main recent achievements and regional project experiences; list and amount of the grants received by other international donor organizations; information about partners from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan invited for regional consortium. Portfolio should be presented in PPP format and not more than 15 slides.
5. An official document providing information about agreed cooperation in frame of the project between partner organizations represented in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (official letters about join cooperation in PDF format with good quality)

The size of documents attached to the e-mail must be at most 20 Mb.