



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Development of Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art in the South Caucasus



Project title

Development of Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art in the South Caucasus

General information

Region: South Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)
Duration: 01.10.2012-31.03.2014
Budget: CHF 100'000

Project partners

- Implementing partner: NGO Platform for Changes

Project objectives

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the cultural sector and its role for social changes in the South Caucasus Region and deepen the dialogue and interaction with Europe by expanding the discourse about innovative artistic practices and varying modes of presentation. This has to be done with involvement of local curators and culture managers from all three South Caucasus countries as well as through direct participation of individual artists. Specific objectives of the project focus on the following issues:

- Contribution to the development of the contemporary dance in the South Caucasian countries through organizing of the Caucasian Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi permitting discovering, tracking and interpreting new trends, social and innovative approaches.
- Opening of new professional opportunities for various actors and independent artists through capacity building activities.
- Revealing of new talents within the field of the contemporary dance and experimental art and their support. Promotion of Art for Changes approach
- Contribution to the confidence building process in the South Caucasus Region.
- Promotion of regional (within the South Caucasus) and inter-regional (between the South Caucasus and Europe in particular) exchange of experiences and development of networks.

Background

After many years of totalitarian rule during soviet times people in the South Caucasus countries landed into a relatively open space with liberal democracy, but the culture on how democratic society function was not developed. Therefore, the concept of contemporary art in the region needs to be urgently reviewed and modified. The support of contemporary art in the South Caucasus region has crucial importance. Such art can help, to some extent, long time suppressed and traumatized societies to better learn imagining their own potential, capacity and possibly to analyze and deliberate their aspirations for life in a creative and artistic form. Contemporary Art is a powerful vehicle that helps to contribute to societal development and transformation in the three countries.

Project supports positive changes in the society and increases civil participation and engagement in Georgia through raise of public awareness and interest in artistic and cultural activities. Target group of the project is comprised of various actors and independent artists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia as well as cultural institutions, universities, civil society organizations, private cultural organizations and general public in these countries.

Project activities

Target group of the project is comprised of various actors and independent artists from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (direct target group) as well as cultural institutions, universities, civil society organisations, private cultural organisations and general public in these countries (indirect target group).

Project consists of four major modules:

- Caucasian Contemporary Dance and Experimental Art Festival in Tbilisi (3x2 or 2x2 program with participation of artists from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Switzerland and two more European countries (to be confirmed); Carte Blanche program for graffiti competition and experimental art performances)
- In Memoriam program (conference and workshop)
- Festivity program (Puppeteers' Club, exhibitions)
- Bridges program (screenings of documentaries about ballet, round table).

Expected results

It is expected that after completion of the project Platform for Changes will generate the following results:

- Contemporary dance is promoted in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia and public awareness is raised about the contemporary art's role for social changes.
- Opportunities are gained for new professional development of various actors and independent artists from the South Caucasus region.
- Independent artists, professional groups, new ideas and approaches in experimental art are revealed and supported. Art for Changes approach is promoted.
- Demonstrated example of the successful track to diplomacy - network of artists is created and sustained among the professionals of the South Caucasus countries and Europe. This contributes to the confidence building process in the South Caucasus Region.
- Contemporary dance as well as other modes of artistic expression such as experimental, alternative and underground art are encouraged and developed in the regions of each involved country and intercultural dialogue is enhanced between the South Caucasus Region and Europe.



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