

**Guidance for the submission for
Central Asia Arts and Culture Programme 2.0. (CAACP 2.0.)
National Open Call in Uzbekistan**

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 Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in 2007, building on the vision of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. It has been recognized as an innovative, effective, and context-adapted way 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.

The SDC launches the new Central Asia Arts and Culture Programme (CAACP 2.0.), which will last until July 2027, with a coverage in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. With this, CAACP enters in a new phase with introducing a call of proposals as working modalities.

The new CAACP will support independent art and culture in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan by providing funds for regional projects through the **Regional Open Call** and national organizations through the **National Open Calls** in the covered countries.

This **guidance provides important information** on the **National Open Call** process to interested independent art and **culture organizations in Uzbekistan**.

II. GOAL AND STRATEGIC FOCUS OF CAACP 2.0. IN UZBEKISTAN

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

The aim in Uzbekistan is that artists, cultural institutions, and their audience exercise their freedom of expression in organizing and/or participating in art and cultural events that represent a diversity of voices, opinions, and artistic expressions.

The CAACP 2.0. prioritizes supporting 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.

The CAACP 2.0. in Uzbekistan will support organizations that:

- **Act as a platform** or open space to provide opportunities to **artists, cultural initiatives** in free artistic creations; engage wider audience in **diverse cultural activities** that reflect a wide variety of voices and free artistic expressions;
- **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 periphery** to increase interest and understanding of diverse and different art and cultures for peaceful coexistence;
- Support **regional artistic platforms, 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 dialog** or joint art initiatives **between stakeholders (independent, private and government)** for collaborative efforts to tackle mutual challenges, which is essential for the country development;
- **Apply innovative approaches** including new technologies for better content creation, dissemination, and promotion.

III. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE NATIONAL OPEN CALL?

- The applying art and culture organization must be registered, located, and operating in Uzbekistan in the last 3 years.
- The legal status might be NGOs, Not-for-Profit organizations, public funds, or LLC forms, and the organization’s main mission and activities should be in art and culture area.
- The applicant has an appropriate artistic and organizational capacity (accounting, administration, and personnel), allowing an efficient and transparent implementation and monitoring of the long-term support programme within the country.
- The applicant should be able to submit proposal with a comprehensive 2 to 3 years vision, that includes plan for the organization’s artistic activities and needs, strategies for promoting artistic creativity and freedom of expression, audience engagement, and organizational sustainability measures (such as fundraising, attracting new partners, networking, etc.).
- The applicant is able to act as a platform to implement a “small action line¹” as a tool to encourage and empower young artists (within the country) in realizing their ideas and initiatives.
- The applicant should have experience or strong commitment to cooperate with different stakeholders (independent, private and government).

The following will not be eligible for support:

- Personal exhibitions, concerts, performances in Uzbekistan etc.

¹ "Small action line¹" is small funds for personal projects for young artists.

- Publishing of monographs, books etc.
- Production of feature full-length 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. SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The SDC selection committee will evaluate organization’s applications along the following criteria:

- **Quality of the Concept Note and Partnership Proposal:** Relevance and feasibility of organization’s 2 to 3 years vision, description of the artistic activities and needs, and adequacy of budgeted expenditures. Gender equality and inclusiveness will be considered as a key element of the relevance.
- **The capacity of the organization:** Available potential (artistic and administrative) of the applicant to implement the long-term support programme and provide own contribution. Actions planned to ensure sustainability of the organization and its results.
- **The capacity of the organization to act as a platform:** 1. Available experience or strong commitment to cooperate with state and independent art and culture institutions. 2. Empower young artists in artistic creations and freedom of expression.

A two steps selection process is planned.

At the first step the independent art and culture organizations requested to provide Concept Note, preliminary budget and information about organization.

In the second step, short-listed candidates will be invited to elaborate on the Partnership Proposal for 2-3 years with detailed budget.

Major timeline:

- **30 November 2023 – Deadline for the Concept Note, preliminary budget and information about the organization**
- **December 2023** - Selection of the short-listed candidates and invitation for the second step;
- **January - 2024** – Elaboration of the detailed Partnership Proposal for 2 to 3 years.
- **31 January 2024 - Deadline for the Partnership Proposal and audit or equivalent financial or tax reports from previous years.**
- **February 2024**- announcement of the winners and further contracting.

At the first step, interested organizations should send the application documentation (see Chapter VI) as attachments to email tashkent.opencallcaacp@eda.admin.ch titled "CAACP 2.0. National Open call." Please ensure you receive confirmation that the programme manager has received your application.

NOTE! The application documentation received after the deadlines will not be reviewed. Only complete packages of documents will be considered by SDC.

In the second steps, the guideline will be provided directly to the short-listed candidates in January 2024.

V. Technical and Financial requirements:

Technical information

- The concept note and partnership proposal templates will be provided, please follow the instructions in the documents.
- The duration of the partnership proposal might be 2 to 3 years.
- No prior discussion or consultation will be provided by SDC representatives during concept note preparation stage.

Financial information

- The annual allocation of the grant should not exceed to 80'000 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 templates for the budget cost description for two steps is provided. At the first step the applicant requested to fill the table with the general expected expenditures, where at the second step detailed expenditures will be elaborated.
- The budget currency for the first step of the selection process should be provided in USD. In the second step, the winner organization will be requested before the contract signing, and the budget should be modified to the national currency, UZS. The SDC regulation for the applicant's accounting checking will apply at the contracting stage.

VI. Application and complimentary documents

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

I step requirements

1. Concept Note (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 figures about audience coverage; list and amount of the grants received by other international donor organizations. Portfolio should be presented in PPP format and not more than 10 slides.

II step requirements

1. Partnership Proposal for the 2-3 year and Budget
2. Audit or equivalent financial or tax reports from previous years that provides information about administrative (accounting) capacity and accountability.

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