

Perspectives on the APFSD and HLPF theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality” (2019)

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ARGO) - KAZAKHSTAN

CASE STUDIES

North and Central Asian Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

3 - 4 September 2018, Tbilisi, Georgia

Who is ARGO?

Central Asia's premier, local CSO, with the *mission* to **efficiently plan and administer national, regional and international social and economic development programs**, in Central and South Asia, and former Soviet Union.

- ARGO is a regional network that encompasses organizations that provide services to other “**technical**” or “**thematic**” nongovernmental organizations.
- An expert in managing small to large projects according to international and in-country standards - with over 20 years of providing regional civil society support.

Case studies on the HLPF theme – 2019

Partnership for Innovations – www.cso-central.asia

Innovation for Change – www.innovationforchange.net

Empowerment Now – www.argonet.org

Partnership for Innovations (*Institutional Capacity*)...

- Internal systems that meet international requirements – multi-country contract and financial management, including bank transfers; procurement; etc.
- Innovative approaches, adapting new technologies to local realities.
- World-class reporting, and monitoring and evaluation standards.
- Cascading and bottom-up infrastructure:



Partnership for Innovations (*Activities*)...

- Capacity-building, training, mentoring webinars,
- Small projects/ sub-contracts
- Exchanges and study tours:
Tajik-Kazakh, Turkmen-Kyrgyz, Afghan-Kazakh....
- Government and CSO Partnerships/Facilitation Dialogue
- CSO distance learning courses
- Research and think tank activities
- Best practices and expertise in social enterprise, community mobilization, participative planning, monitoring and evaluation
- Regional discussion / networking platforms:
Annual International Conference for civil society
Video conferences

Partnership for Innovations (*Outcomes*).....

- Formal and permanent inclusion of representatives from civil society from the region in the “Dialogue Platform on Human Dimension” housed and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. The periodic meetings of the Dialogue Platform on Human Dimension have served as a high level and formal space to explore and establish partnerships between civil society organizations and governments to tackle diverse issues impacting sustainable long term development in the region.
- Enabling spaces and empowering people for Citizen Participation in Decision Making Processes in Kazakhstan and Central Asia



ARGO is a secretariate of the Regional HUB for Civil Society and Innovations

2015

workshop for Central
and South Asia CSiI

 **Istanbul**
June

Inter-regional
retreat

 **New York**
September

2016

1st CSiI information
session in Central Asia

 **Almaty**
February

2016 International
Civil Society Week

 **Bogota**
April 2016

Innovation Lab

 **Almaty**
August 2016

2017

Inter-regional Retreat

 **Johannesburg**
May 2017

Media and Social
Innovation Lab

 **Dushanbe**
May 2017

Innovation for Change
Launch

 **Almaty**
June 2017

the Digital Security
Workshop

 **Almaty**
November 2017

2017 International
Civil Society Week

 **Fiji**
December 2017

2018

Consultative Meeting
on Strategy Development

 **Almaty**
March 2018

Innovation Forum

 **Almaty**
June 2018

1. A Media Tour for journalists and media executives **140** participants
2. The Regional Placemaking Festival **4000** participants
3. The Make-a-thon for people with disabilities **200** participants
4. A Contemporary Art Exhibit **200** participants
5. The Insights into Development Conference **240** participants
6. The Innovation Talks **200** participants
7. A Museum Night **3500** participants
8. The Go Viral Festival **200** participants
9. Ethno Innovations Day **200** participants



INNOVATION FESTIVAL

CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT
IN CENTRAL ASIA

Empowerment Now! (results).....

- Raised the awareness and inclusion of 3.7 million (21%) of Kazakhstani citizens and 17 million Central Asian citizens about disability.
- Raised the awareness and engaged in dialogue with key national government authorities, providing information regarding issues of PWDs and Kazakhstan's current legislation.
- Increased the organizational capacity of 20 local level disability focused organizations (DPOs) to expand their services and advocate for disability related issues.
- The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection announced at the international conference, that Kazakhstan would ratify the UN convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Kazakhstan has waited six years for this ratification.



Connection to the SDGs and plans.....



- “South-South” Partnerships with Asia Development Alliance (ADA):
 - Participation in the training program called the Global Advocacy Leadership Academy in Asia (GALA Asia 2018)*
 - Organizing Regional Workshop for civil society in Central Asia (November 2018)*
- Encouraging civil society for creating initiatives on sub-regional, national and local levels for monitoring and implementing of SDGs
- Strengthening Capacity of Civil Society for participation in the process of APFSD and HLPF.