

Innovation for Change (I4C)

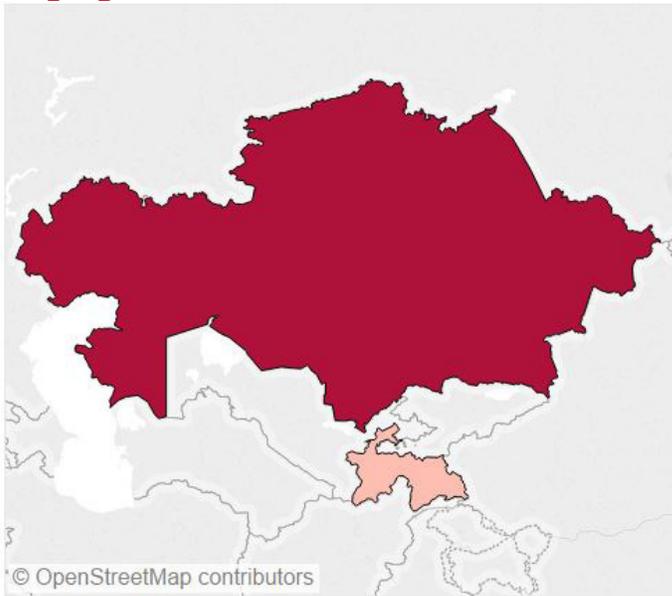
Central Asia Hub

Challenge

The legal framework for civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Central Asia region has deteriorated, with increasing restrictions on NGO activities and independent journalists, including “foreign agent” laws to restrict foreign funding. Intimidation tactics are used to curtail dissent.

Within this context, the Central Asia Innovation Hub is focusing on ways to strengthen the civic space including collaborating with government representatives to improve civic engagement, increasing the digital literacy and information security awareness.

Engagements in Central Asia



The Central Asia Hub co-creates solutions and partnerships across the region to put into practice innovations that strengthen and defend the region’s civic space.

Innovations

Accountability & Transparency: Promoted good governance within civil society and government by building partnerships between the government and the private sector.

Advocacy: Highlighted innovative regional initiatives and innovation events.

Digital Security: Trained members on digital and online security, verification processes, fact-checking and how to better secure their personal devices.

Global Partnerships: Developed broad-based partnerships that include local government representatives, along with technologists, social entrepreneurs, and the business community.

Innovation pipeline: Developed the initial methodology for the innovation labs in the I4C network, creating ideas at the regional level that can be picked up network-wide.

Knowledge sharing: Increase knowledge on civic technology tools and hands-on skills to address long-standing social good challenges for groups, like persons with disabilities.

Research and Development: Applied research methods to improve digital literacy.

The **Central Asia Hub** is one of six hubs across the global south in the I4C network. The Helper Hub, comprised of Counterpart and CIVICUS for direct technical support, and Tides, the fiscal agent, assists the regional hubs to become self-sufficient.

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About The Hub

The Central Asia Hub celebrated its launch with forty participants from seven different countries in 2016 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Based on each country's diversity, needs and circumstances, the Central Asia Hub has carved out a cooperative approach to take advantage of the opportunities for strengthening existing civic space. The Central Asia Hub is governed by a secretariat and related working groups, with each group represented by two members from each country in the region.

Our Focus



Our Work



318 Event Participants



55 Members



6 Engagements



7 Countries

Successes

Almaty Innovation Lab: The first I4C Innovation Lab took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2016 and brought together fifty leaders, experts, and activists from the region to share ideas, brainstorm new approaches, and build partnerships; the I4C Innovation Toolkit is based on this process.

Media and Social Innovation Lab: The first media and social Innovation Lab in the region brought together media representatives, technologists and CSOs to develop new methods and tools for CSOs to use in their communications. The lab took place in Tajikistan in 2017.

Cross Regional Collaborations: The Central Asia Hub collaborated with the MENA Hub technical experts who helped increase literacy on digital security to 35 CSOs and activists. Central Asia hub members also participated in the Buenos Aires Innovation Lab in June, 2017.

Networking & Partnership Building: Highlighted innovative regional initiatives through the Partnerships for Innovation Award 2017.

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