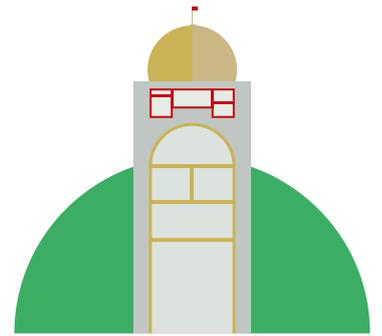


# Highlights from IDEA Central Asia (CA)



## Debate of the Open Society TV Show

*Television continues to be the main source of information for the majority of the population which is why this project has far-reaching coverage and the potential to widely impact young people in Central Asia's first democratic country.*

Debate of the Open Society is one of the most popular primetime TV shows in Kyrgyzstan. It airs on Kyrgyzstan's 1st National TV channels and is making debate popular, encouraging the implementation of democratic principles, and altering the often negative mainstream portrayal of young people in the media.

Instead, young people are being portrayed as being active, engaged and capable of discussing topics of social significance,

looking for solutions for social, political and economic issues relating to Kyrgyzstan and the Central Asian region. The first broadcast was in Russian in September 2012.

In order to attract a higher reach of marginalized youth who are mostly Kyrgyz-speaking (as opposed to Russian-speaking) IDEA proposed showing a Kyrgyz version of the programme and adjusting the format to make it easier for those unfamiliar in debate to follow.



## Media and Debate Programme

A two-week long International Media and Debate programme 'Youth of the 21stC century: debating and producing media' is one of the largest media events in the Central Asian region. It's for 40 young, socially-engaged people from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The programme uses debate training and is focused on newsworthy topics as part of a larger media-awareness and practical journalism training.

The workshops IDEA CA is running combine debate, discussion, and analysis of media's role in society with hands-on training on how to create professional and insightful written and visual stories. Each workshop

is designed to help young people analyze the role of the media in reporting and shaping the perception of social problems relating to the region. With the help of specialists and professionals in the field, participants gain an understanding of how the media works in that particular region.

Workshops like these teach youth aged between 18 - 25 to be effective producers and consumers of media information by equipping them to produce and package content towards creating a better society. At the end of the workshop, the participants prepare their own professional media projects that are published in the regional and local mass media.



## The international Aitmatov Debate Academy (IADA) is one of the biggest debating events for Russian-speaking countries

### International Aitmatov Debate Academy

It attracts about a hundred young people: representatives of debate communities, non-governmental organizations, youth movements from Georgia, Baltics and CIS.

The main purpose of IADA is to:

- Investigate important topics for the former Soviet Union through debate;
- Promote the initiatives of their organizations;
- Provide participants with life-learning and reasoning skills to express their ideas confidently, think critically, check information, argue and defend their civil position,
- Engage with the wider community;
- Give training in public speaking;
- Enable critical analysis of information;
- Build a culture of dialogue.

IADA is currently the largest platform to bring together representatives of the former Soviet Union and an important event to foster communication and dialogue between youth from different countries and help them to rebuild trust and engage in constructive dialogue. In addition to its educational merits, IADA has also become a platform to exchange ideas, to discuss current regional problems, create a network of partners and develop joint projects.

### Debate and Forum Theatre Workshop (DATW)

DATW is an integrated methodology that combines forum theatre and debate to engage young people and identify issues within their communities. During a well-moderated discussion that follows a theatre performance that portrays their difficult conditions, participants can examine various perspectives and behaviours and provide suggestions and alternatives by analysing and exploring the topic and offering alternative conclusions. The result? Participants feel less emotional, less burdened and less confused.

This integrated methodology creates a safe and creative space to engage young people, especially those who are marginalized, to change their world.

