

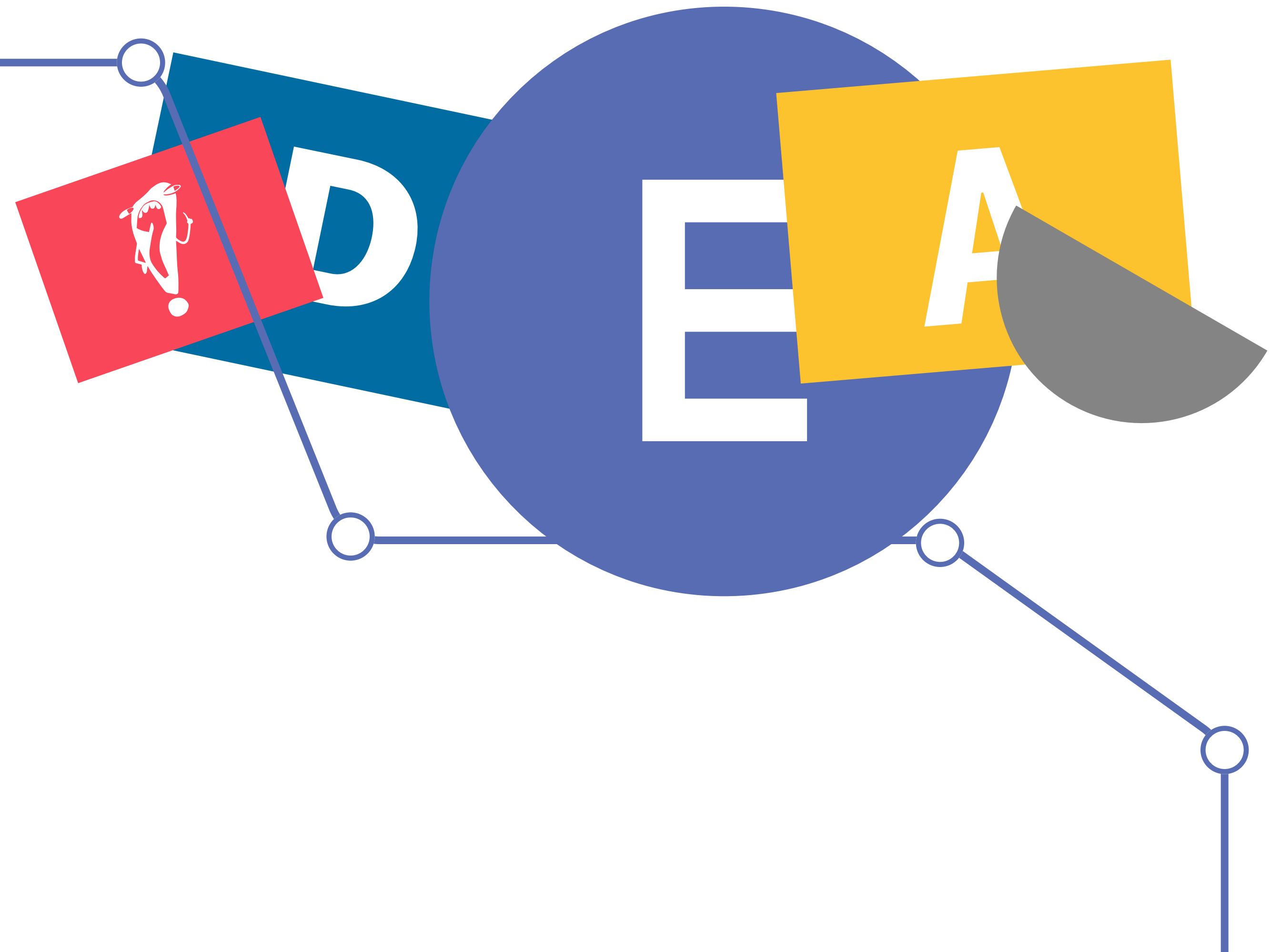


5 years

IDEA Central Asia - as an established youth-led organization - has been defending the interests of young people. Together with thousands of young people, we are building bridges between ideas and communities to bring change in the region.

We create conditions for young people in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan to unite and act. For this we use interactive learning, activism, public speaking and debate. Our team of dedicated young professionals is committed to giving young people the experiences, resources and knowledge they need to thrive throughout all of our programs.

2019 was a year of transformation.

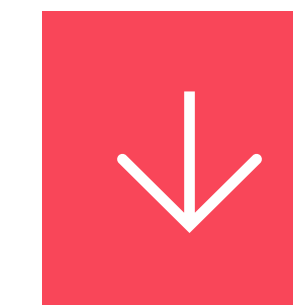






Welcoming remarks	→	05
Our team	→	06
Timeline	→	09
Programms Map	→	10
Infographics	→	11
Goal 1	→	14
Goal 2	→	19
Goal 3	→	24
Budget	→	28
Partners	→	29





We are building our tomorrow, today

Dear friends,

In early December, we celebrated our fifth birthday and remembered how it all began. We have grown from a debate project to an organization with large programs and numerous events. To be honest, it was not an easy path. Like this year, which became a year of transformations for us and laid the foundation for new directions.

«Change is coming whether you like it or not,»

— says 16-year-old eco-activist,
Greta Thunberg

The main result of 2019 is that we have increased our coverage to remote border villages of Kyrgyzstan. 1,250 young people acquired new skills and implemented hundreds of creative ideas and initiatives. In addition, we involved parents for the first time. They debated with their children on the same team and learned empathy.

Creating a supportive environment remains an important part of our work for us. This year I was inspired by our teachers of vocational schools, where we promote civic education. Abdi from the village of Baetovo, in the Ak-Tala region (about 400 km from Bishkek) is a history teacher. He skillfully uses everyday examples to explain to students how the plague of corruption is embedded in our lives. Thanks to our support, he learned to search for short and informative videos on labor rights and began to use more interactive methods in his classroom.

Kalikan from Kyzyl-Kiya (700 km from Bishkek) is a teacher with 30 years of experience, who started using new teaching tools and immediately noticed the result. Her students began to engage more in discussions and attend classes with interest. There are many other teachers who change themselves and the system. Transformations like these keeps us energized.

I join in the words of Greta Thunberg. We young people are more aware of the importance of change than anyone else. And the 100,000 young activists who gathered in New York in September for the UN Climate Summit prove that today's youth is different. She is smart, understanding and empathic. Young people care, and they are ready to move this world forward. 2019 gave me the opportunity to get to know Greta personally and dozens of young activists

from around the world. We are very different, but we are similar in one thing - we are building our tomorrow, now.

In 2019, we did our best and got decent results. In 2020 we will try harder and harder. Recent events in the country show the need for a critical mass of people who can shape public opinion, establish a demand for the fight against social injustice. Therefore, today, critical thinking, the ability to ask questions and analyze, is more relevant than ever before.

Thank you for being with us all year, for supporting and believing in what we do!

With solidarity,

Elvira Kalmurzaeva
Executive Director



▶ Our team



**BEKSULTAN
RUSTAMOV**
→ Program Officer

*We change the world
around us every day.*

*Teenagers of Kyrgyzstan
inspire confidence!*



**BIBINUR
BOLOTKANOVA**
→ Project Coordinator

*I am inspired
by our youth's ideas!*



**RAISA
KIRGIZOVA**
→ Project Coordinator

*Development needs creativity,
and I contribute to it.*



**TRISTAN
PETTERSON**
→ Project Development
Manager and M&E Officer

*Elvira,
what do you love?*

*I love meeting cool boys
and girls of our country!*



**ELVIRA
KALMURZAEVA**
→ Executive Director

*I see how young
people and their
environment
are changing.*



**NURAIYM
SHAMYRKANOVA**
→ Program Specialist

*We are expanding
the worldview
of young people!*



**SAIDA
NURALIEVA**
→ Project Coordinator

*I am excited with
youth, who is burning
with ideas!*



**AIDAI
KADYRALIEVA**
→ Media Coordinator

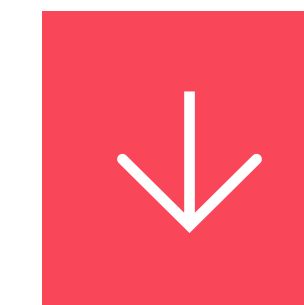
*I get a huge boost
of energy from
young people!*



**ZHYPARA
BERDIBAEVA**
→ Project Coordinator

♥ We love what we do.
And we are lucky to do it together!

▶ Our team



TOLGONAI
MERGENBAEVA
→ Accountant

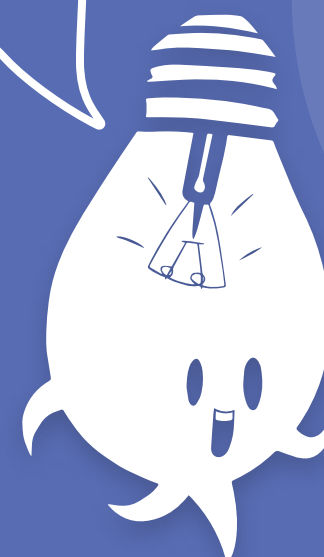
I protect against financial risks.



AIZAT
RUSLANOVA
→ Project Coordinator

Every day I fight against stereotypes about youth.

Arslan, can I have some participation in IDEA training?



ARSLAN
ISAKOV
→ Product Manager

I am glad that our tools are now available to everyone!



KANAT
NOGOIBAEV
→ Program Coordinator

I am happy to see changes in our boys and girls!



BEGIMAI
KALCHOROEVA
→ Project Coordinator

I am learning with our young people!



ALMAZBEK
DUISHOBAEV
→ Project Coordinator

What we teach young people today, they will need tomorrow.



ISMAIL
KARYPOV
→ Social Media Specialist

My motivation is to be part of something useful.



ZHAZGUL
DUISHONBEKOVA
→ Administrative Assistant

I like to share my experience.



▶ Our team



We not only teach,
but also learn
for ourselves every
day!



NAZGUL
KOCHKORBAEVA
→ Accountant

We support ideas
that are important.



KEITH
HUCKLE
→ Fundraising Manager

We empower potential
of Kyrgyzstan's youth.



ASEL
ABDRAIMOVA
→ Program Coordinator

We create a youth-friendly
environment.



FIRUZA
RAHMATBEKOVA
→ Country Coordinator
in Tajikistan

We develop critical
thinking skills in young
people.



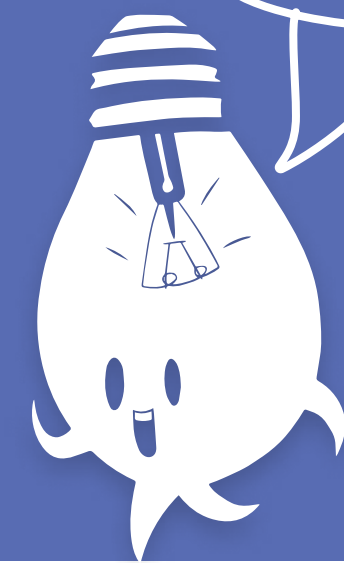
OLZHAS
ABDUHAMITOV
→ Country Coordinator
in Kazakhstan

Our boys and girls!
They always have so
many bright ideas!

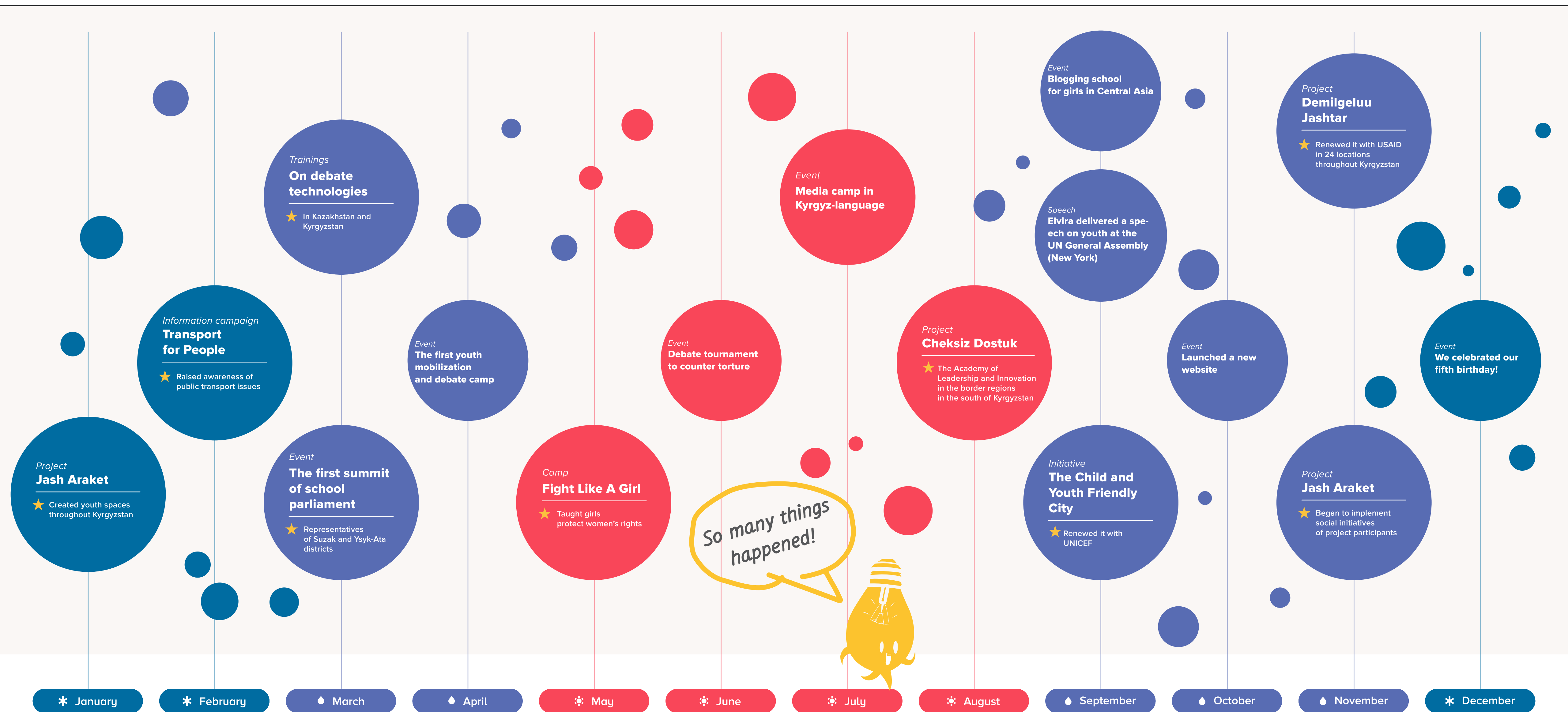
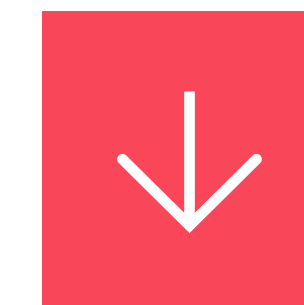


ZHAMILYA
SAGYNDYKOVA
→ Project Coordinator

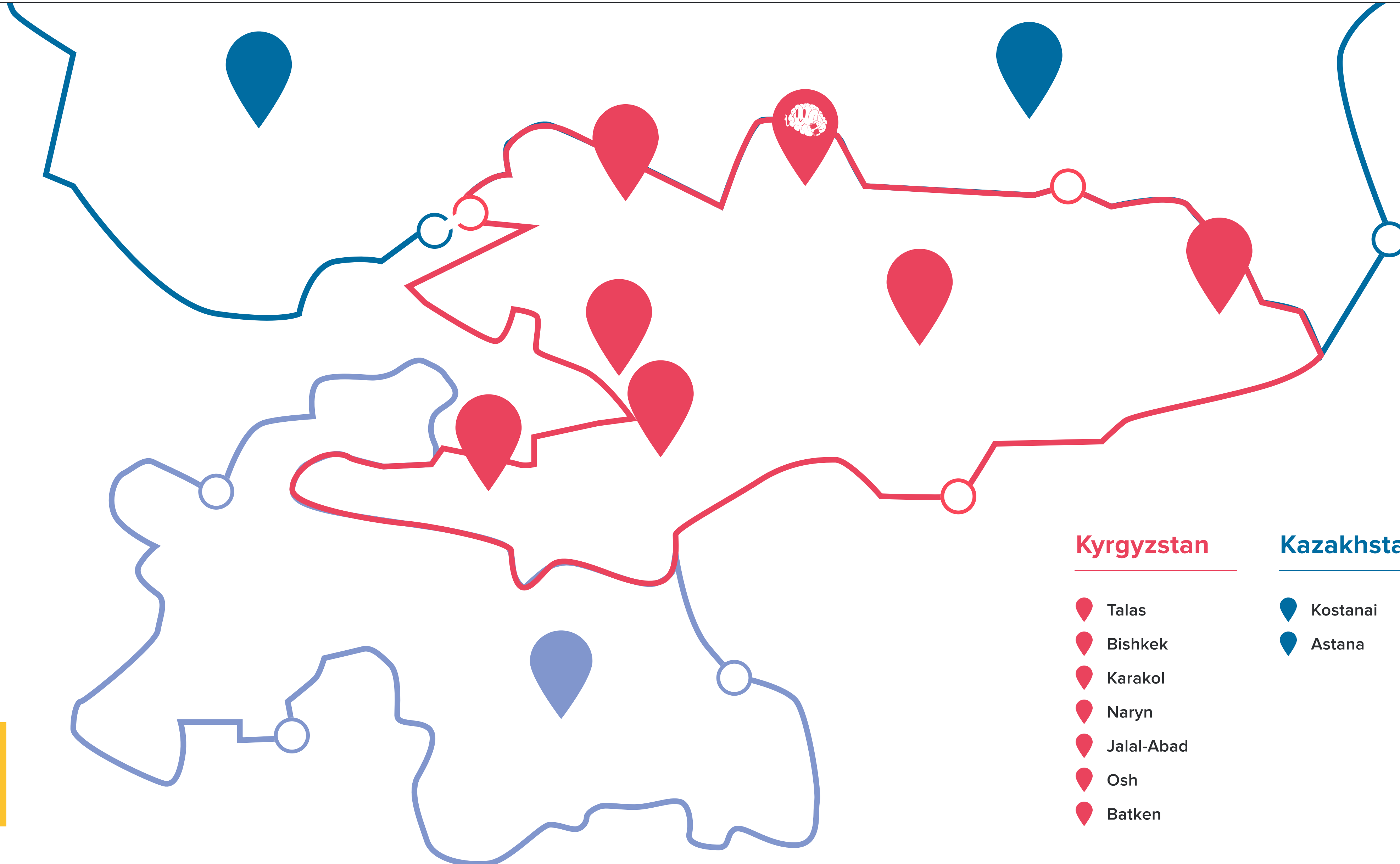
Zhamilya,
what inspires you?



▶ Timeline



▶ Programms Map



Kyrgyzstan

- Talas
- Bishkek
- Karakol
- Naryn
- Jalal-Abad
- Osh
- Batken

Kazakhstan:

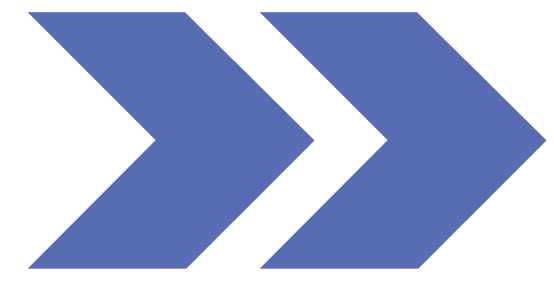
- Kostanai
- Astana

Tajikistan:

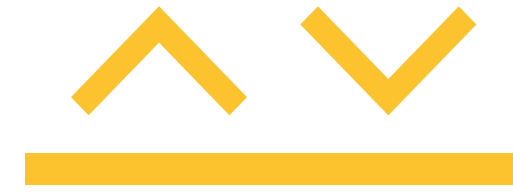
- Dushanbe



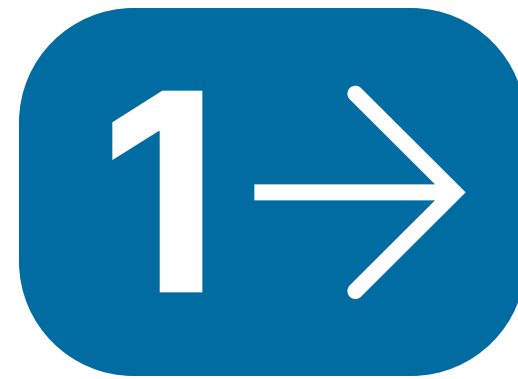
24



youth-driven research



2 ToTs
on debate technologies



summit
of school parliaments' presidents

7

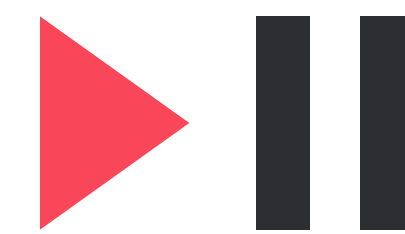
countries of
Central Asia
and the Caucasus

19



analytical
research reports

10



media products

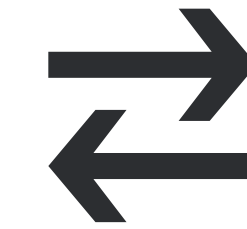


1250

project participants

45

solutions
of social problems



75%

supported
by local authorities

cooperation

agreements with the
state bodies

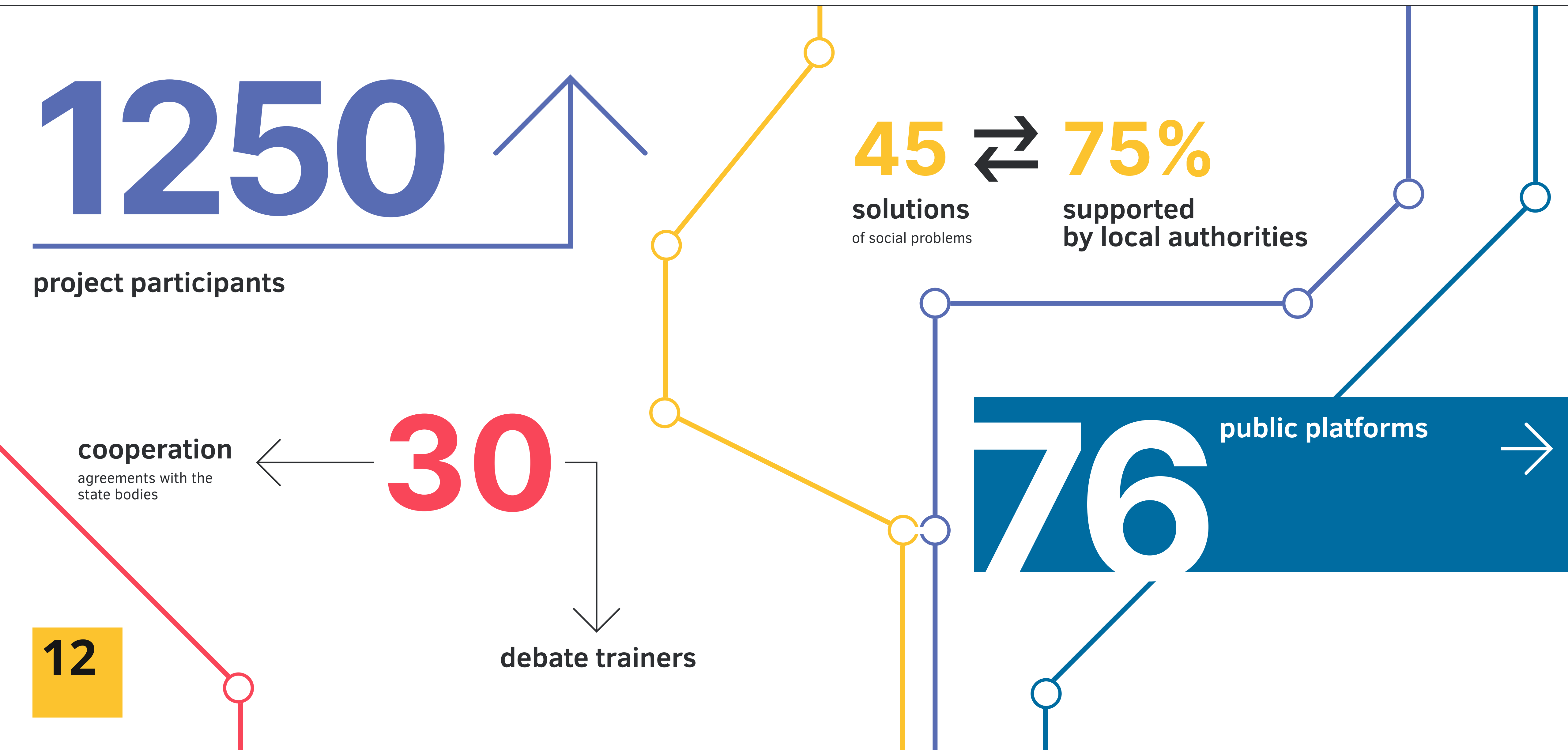
30

debate trainers

76

public platforms

12







In this world, the voices and participation of young people are recognized by local authorities and society.

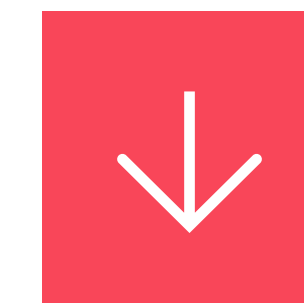
YOUNG PEOPLE

ARE SHAPING

Young people in Central Asia are actively responding to what worries them in their environment.

THEIR WORLD

They trigger change and feel supported.



Anyone can be the person of the year

In 2019, 16-year-old eco-activist Greta Thunberg became the person of the year according to Time Magazine. Her solo pickets at the Swedish parliament turned into a multi-million dollar movement. And this is not an exception, but a trend. Young people around the world are ready to fight for the world in which they live.

“In every area of our work, we need to take into account the needs of young people and make sure that they are equal partners. We are not the future, we are the present!”

— noted Elvira Kalmurzaeva at the opening of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly

Elvira's speech at the UN House is our call for countries and their leaders to listen to the voices of young people. And they have something to say!

Our mission is to promote a dialogue in which all parties are equal and open to new experiences.

When there is a platform where young people, government officials, parents and teachers can discuss issues that are important to them, there is also a foundation for big changes.

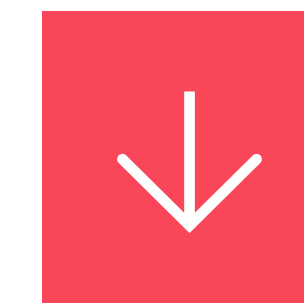
Teamwork and a willingness to change can initiate ideas that matter. Any of these ideas is a step towards a world where young people are confidently developing their communities. Our aim is to support them in their initiatives so that they can achieve great results.

At our seminars, camps and trainings, young men and women learn to conduct research in their villages and cities.

They collect data and hold evidence-based public hearings. They gain awareness of what problems exist around them and identify possible solutions.

Khojiakbar from Uzgen, for example, talks about the problem of early marriages- a problem that so many young girls continue to face across the region.. Aisuloo from the Yrys village helps parents and children build a dialogue when choosing a future profession. Guliza from the village of Kara-Tokoi wants to become a social worker in order to fairly distribute aid to those in need. Malika from the village of Belovodskoye draws the attention of local authorities to the interests of young people.

There are young activists like this in every corner of Central Asia. They are 14-16 years old, and each of them can become a Time person of the year, defend safety, ecology and their rights. They know what kind of world they want and they shapeit themselves.



○ *«I finished my speech and heard thunderous applause from the MPs!»*

— *Diera, 15-year-old, Mamai village*

In 2019, I joined the Cheksiz Dostuk youth group. We conducted a survey among residents of different ages from the villages of Mamai and Ustukan in order to understand the needs of young people.

It turned out that everyone is worried about the lack of computers. This is understandable - we had one school computer for the whole village and only teachers used it. At a public hearing, we convinced the city kenesh to include new computers in the budget. We were so happy. But then it turned out that this item was removed during the budget approval.

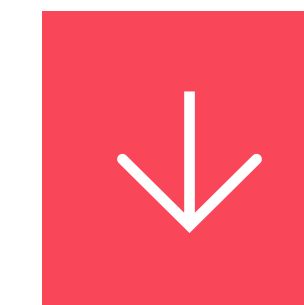
I had so many questions and indignation: “What about us? But what about computers? We need them so much! ”I could not resist, so I spoke out publicly about this problem. I didn’t prepare my speech, but I felt that I needed to say everything as it is.

I spoke about how we did the research, how we identified the problem, and why it is so important to solve it now.

«Today computers are everywhere. Using a computer is a skill people need to find work. We have nowhere to practice, gain knowledge, develop this skill»

I finished my speech and heard thunderous applause from the deputies and other participants in the hearing. After this speech, a decree was issued on the purchase of computers.





«*I would never have thought that a person can only be inspired by the fact that he was listened to and understood!*»

— *Nureles, 16-year-old, Tash-Bulak village*

Before, it turns out that I could not even dream. I erased all my aspirations, because I saw so many barriers, difficulties and challenges. Mistrust and neglect on the part of adults stood in front of me like a wall.

With the Child and Youth Friendly City initiative, a time of change began for me. Before, I was not at all interested in what was happening in my village and what could be improved. I saw the problems, but did not dare to talk about them.

When we identified the problem we would work on, we immediately thought about the excess waste in the village. We began to share ideas on how to get rid of garbage and teach residents to be more respectful of their environment.

People do not realize the importance of waste management until it touches them personally. Our idea was to create a flash-mob: "You are for me, and I for you!" We decided to show-off what we would look like if the Earth treated us like humans to her. This impressed the residents of our village, and the garbage became noticeably reduced

After public hearings, local authorities supported our initiative and allocated funds for bags and gloves. We do not want to dwell on this, we will continue.





idea



We clearly recognize that it is difficult for young people to achieve change without adult support.

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE

That is why we started working with teachers of schools and vocational schools, local authorities, and parents.

AS MANY

OPPORTUNITIES

AS THEY CAN

We teach them to value the opinion of adolescents when making decisions in their family, community and country.



Comfortable environment

We cooperate with **8 vocational schools** of Kyrgyzstan within the "Communities for Sustainable Peace" program. These schools are located across all regions of the country. We engage with teachers, headmasters, deputy directors and methodologists to reimagine Civic Education in Kyrgyzstan.

«For all the years I have been working, I thought I knew everything and could do a lot. But to put into practice different interactive techniques - I have never seen anything like this!»

— Imarbekov Borubay, methodologist of Lyceum No. 12 in Osh, 69 years old

There previously was a course in vocational schools called: "Legal bases of professional activity". Our objective was to revise the teaching methods and learning materials to make the course more user-centered, based on the needs of young men and women, and more interactive. We trained teachers not only to give knowledge, but also to motivate their students to attend classes and complete assignments. Our goal was to show teachers how to be friends and trusted mentors, rather than authorities.

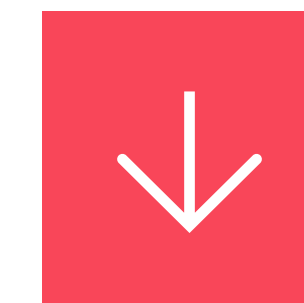
We continue to inspire students to become initiators of changes, to be more active in their communities. They gain awareness about the needs of their communities and initiate local projects themselves.

We encourage them to think critically about family planning, their self-development and opportunities that are thrown their way; we invite them to challenge their

self-development and opportunities that are thrown their way; we invite them to challenge their behaviours so that they can make informed decisions when they are faced with difficult life situations, either at home or abroad.

Within the Cheksiz Dostuk program, we started working with 90 young people and their parents in remote border regions in the south of Kyrgyzstan: in Batken, Jalal-Abad and Osh regions. Program participants learn to debate with their parents. Parents who spend time communicating with their children in an unusual format become closer to them.

This creates a platform for the exchange of thoughts and ideas between different generations. Debate teaches them to understand each other and develop empathy. It is an amazing experience both for children who need support and for parents who find it difficult to get along with their children.



Expanding the impact

We launched 10 social initiatives in 2019 together with the participants and of the Child and Youth Friendly City program - 7 of which received support from local decision-makers - while in the "Demigeluu Jashtar" program, youth initiative groups successfully implemented 5 local initiatives - 4 of which received commitments from local representatives.

During the week of camp "Fight Like A Girl" activists learned to fight for their rights as girls - boldly, effectively - but by supporting each other.

In 2019, we continued the Child and Youth Friendly City program in Suzak and Issyk-Ata. Of the 20 youth-driven ideas to create an enabling environment, 13 received support from local governments. Teams will start bringing their ideas to life in January 2020.

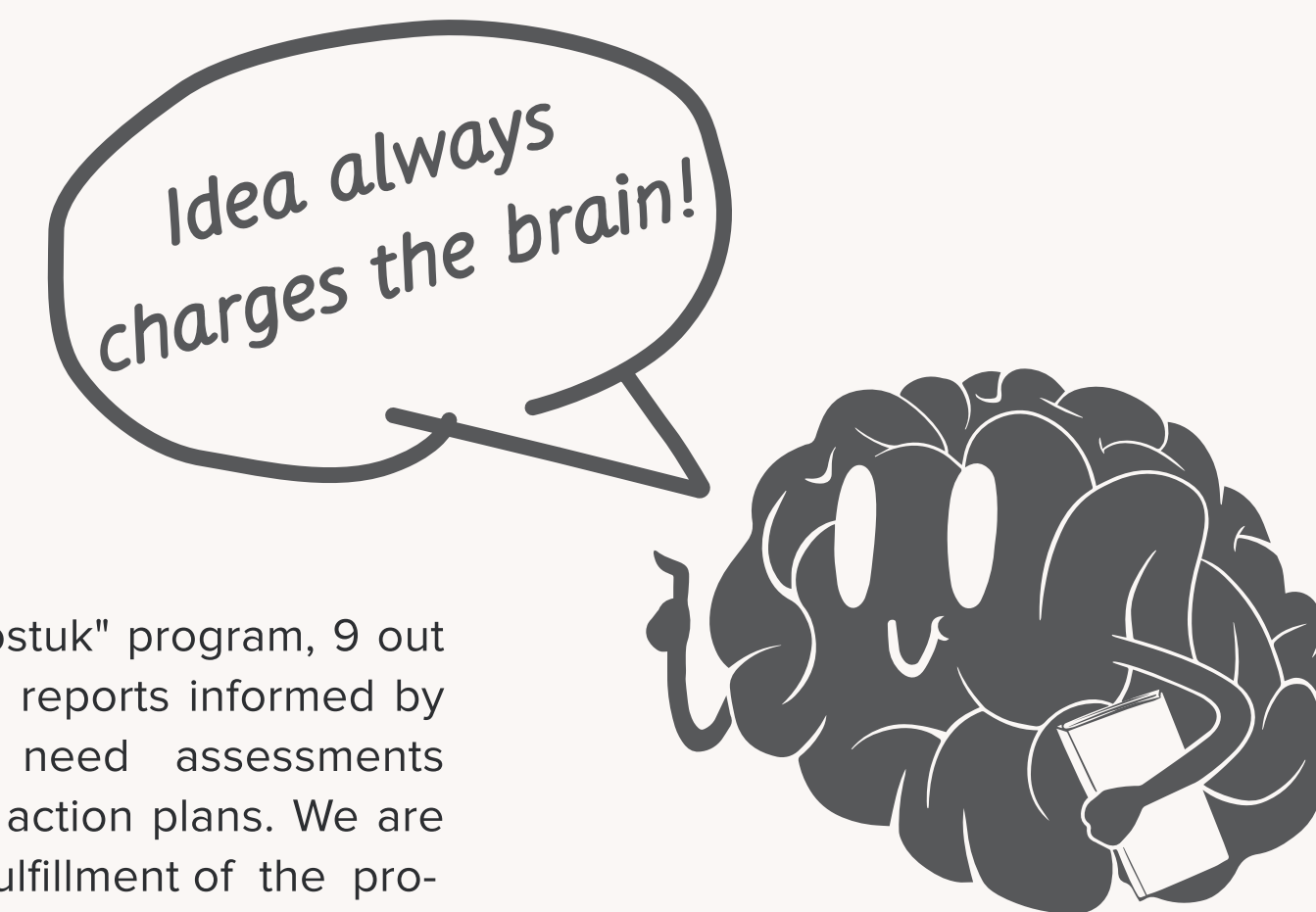
80% of public hearings of the "Jash Araket" project ended with the acceptance of proposals of initiative groups by local authorities. They made clear commitments to support youth ideas in the 2020 local budgets.

In November and December, local MPs, parents and school administrators believed in 10 youth initiatives. They helped organize photo exhibitions, distribute social videos, hold round tables and motivational meetings. At the final event, our participants developed 10 action plans for 2020, based on cooperation with government officials.

Within the "Cheksiz Dostuk" program, 9 out of 9 analytical research reports informed by youth-driven community need assessments were included in local action plans. We are closely monitoring the fulfillment of the promises made by the deputies.

Our Kyrgyz-language media camp allowed youth from all over Kyrgyzstan to create materials that answer urgent questions in a lively and professional manner. These are stories that inspire.

During the week of the "Fight like a girl" camp, the activists learned to fight for their rights as girls - boldly, effectively, supporting each other. They have learned and honed their video-making and editing skills so that their personal blog content covers important topics and affects millions of viewers.



20 students of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other universities in Bishkek learned how to transform conflicts into dialogue through forum theater, distinguish sexism and understand gender-based violence.

The Parity-G program aimed to challenge harmful gender norms with targeted workshops and interactive training for future police officers and lawyers, which culminated in an iTalk event which opened the eyes of many to gender inequality and violence against women and girls in Kyrgyzstan.



Know-How tools

The Guide on Civic Education for Vocational schools, was adopted for testing and use in the education system and will soon be integrated in all vocational schools across the country. Lessons are already taking place in 8 pilot schools.

The IDEA Central Asia methodology on debate technologies has been successfully adapted and used for a set of ToTs in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Our debate expert trainers have also updated training materials for public speaking and communication workshops. Lessons learned from our existing tools on participatory research - used by countless young people across the region to identify and raise community problems - revealed that our program participants still lacked proper data analysis and visualization skills.

Changes were made to our research tools to include additional sessions on analytical thinking and data visualization. Young people are better equipped to communicate their findings to the public in a visual and accessible way through storytelling and infographics.





«In the city hall we were accepted as equals»

— Takhmina, 15-year-old, Aydarken

We have our own initiative group in Aydarken, we hold public hearings, debate tournaments. After several months of online and offline research, we realized that there is poor communication between residents and local authorities. We turned to the mayor's office with ideas and proposals for joint events.

Surprisingly, we were accepted as equals! They listened to what we had to say. Our initiative group was offered to become a bridge between the youth of the city and local authorities.

The mayor of the city suggested that we cover the news on Instagram and Facebook on behalf of the mayor's office, because they do not have their own media specialist. We were even offered to pay for this work, but we immediately warned that we would help on a volunteer basis. We love what we are doing now because we feel the trust of our elders.

I became more confident, and I have more support from my parents, they ask me about my interests and activism.



My first initiative was to organize plogging in our town. This is when cleaning is combined with walking or jogging. I saw this idea on the Internet and decided to try it out. It's cheap and you can reap the double benefits of caring for your health and the environment. Thanks to this initiative, many began to recognize me. The Red Crescent agreed to support us and helped us with the removal of the collected waste.

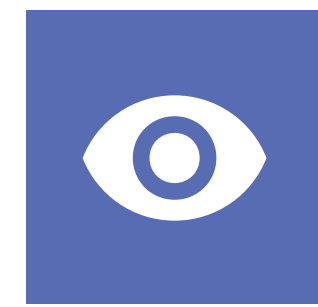
We expected that there would be 30 people, but there were twice as many participants. We were joined by ordinary people. We had to give each of them one glove instead of a pair. As a result, we collected 60 bags of garbage!

Environmental problems are often pushed to the background in comparison with social ones. But we need to protect nature today in order to live in a safe world tomorrow.

In life, I want to be independent so that my family will be proud of me. I will definitely continue my social work, helping people from vulnerable groups, because I know how much they need support and care.

«I will definitely continue my social work, helping people from vulnerable groups, because I know how much they need support»

— Malik, 17-year-old, Tokmok



This year we launched a new website <https://ideaca.today/>, to tell more and more vividly about the cool stories of our program participants.

We have created new formats for working with people and for people.



BY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT WE CHANGE OURSELVES

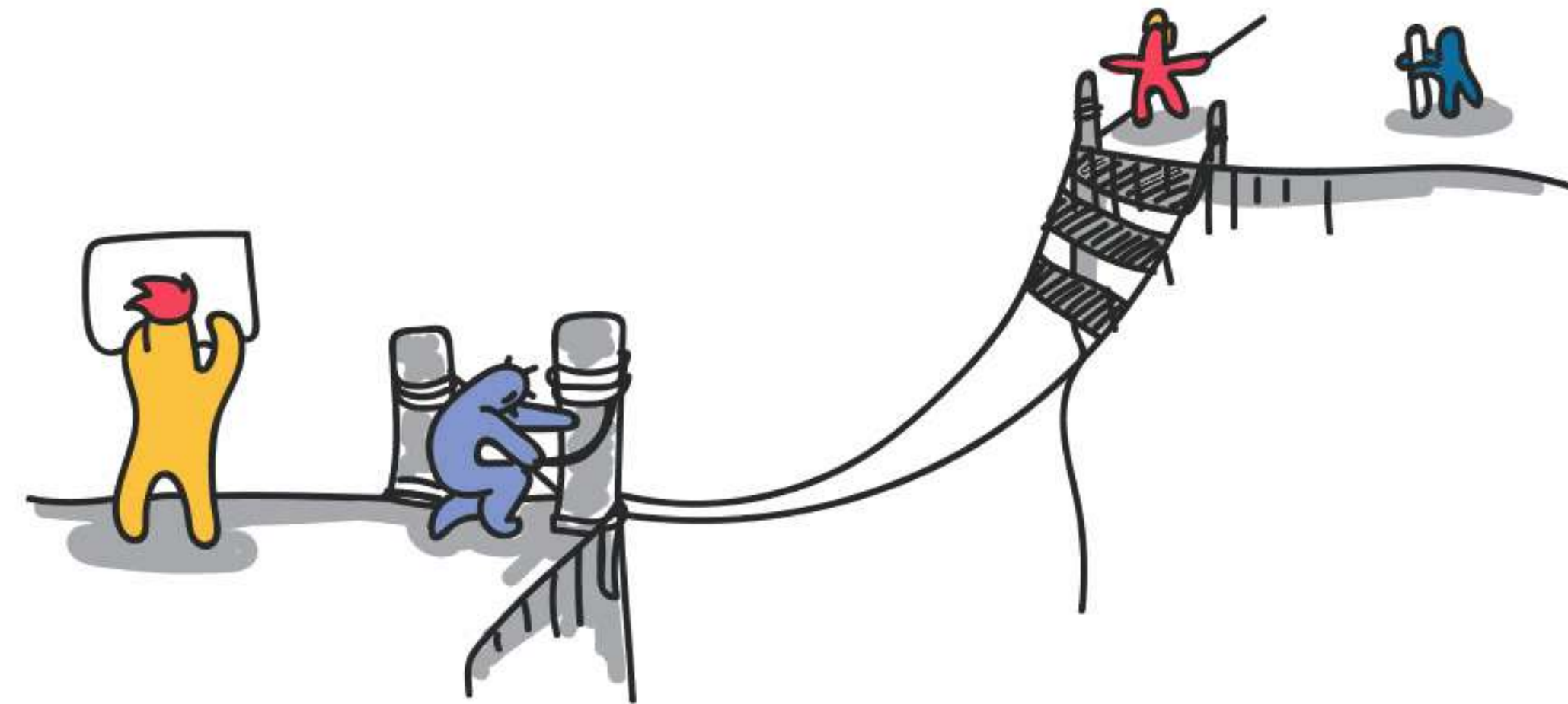
We now have commercial services and direct all the money we earn to our existing programs.



New opportunities

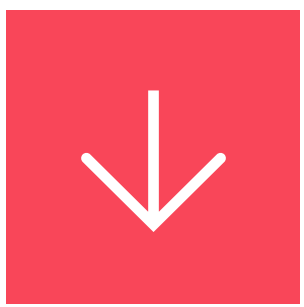
«IDEA Central Asia has vast experience and valuable knowledge in the development of " Soft Skills ": critical thinking, listening skills, persuasion skills, etc. We make these skills available to everyone»

— Arslan Isakov, Product Development Manager



Commercial contracts are a real source of additional income for many NGOs. IDEA Central Asia has successfully implemented short-term commercial projects in the past and has gained a lot of experience in this direction. This became the basis for the full launch of commercial services in 2019 for clients from both the business environment and the civil sector. IDEA Central Asia is striving to improve its potential to continue working with young people

in a sustainable way. This is how we gather resources to channel our accumulated funds into our programs that increase their potential and enable them to implement their ideas. The development of a new direction allowed the whole team to rise to a new level and expand their focus. We strengthen the position of the organization, establish contacts with experts and entrepreneurs. Commercial services have made us more visible.



Three business proposals

In 2019, we developed three business services based on the organization's key skills and technical expertise.



Transformational trainings

Development of "Soft skills" and training in the game

We did not want to imitate school and ask to remember information. Instead, we developed a new methodology that included interactive elements: games, simulations and tests. The trainings consists of 3 components: 40% theory, 40% group assignments and 20% discussion.

How to develop critical thinking? How not to be afraid of conflicts and solve them? How do you learn to ask the right questions? How to weigh every opinion and come to the right decisions? + 16 relevant skills.



Intellectual events

Where ideas collide

We have vast experience in organizing both small and large-scale events for up to 250 people. We offer a full package of services for organizing events from developing content that can hold interest to interacting with the audience.

Our team conducts such events as: iTalk, Makeathons, Camps, Debate tournaments, Quiz Nights and other platforms for creating and developing new ideas.



Business Debate

for Idea-Based Companies

We wanted to open up Debate technology for business, so that specialists and experts from different areas are free to discuss, argue and propose solutions.

This format allows ideas to competently and efficiently compete with each other. We train participants in debating skills, help organize debate platforms.



«We are constantly improving our tools. And the basis of our changes is the interests of the young men and women we work with»

— Bibinur, Project Coordinator

For a while now, we have been building our arsenal of unique tools, like debate technologies, forum theater and participatory research. We learn from our experience and listen to the needs of our participants, which is how we came up with new exciting tools! By the beginning of 2019, we introduced new educational and creative methodologies: data analysis and visualization, book camps for the development of social initiatives - makeathons - and letter writing marathons!

Our tools are designed so that young people are equipped with the A-to-Z skills they need to bring their ideas to life. Youth-driven ideas: for youth, by youth. We started working with entire communities, not just with students in schools. Teachers, local representatives and parents are also engaged in our programs, because we believe in working with duty-bearers to create an enabling environment for young people to dream and become change-makers.



▶ **Total budget**



\$358 542

Total programme development cost

\$169 007

Total personnel cost,
including fees

\$31 911

Total administrative cost

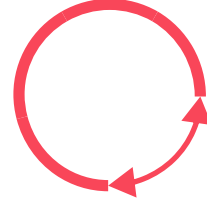










\$541 564

Annual income received from donors

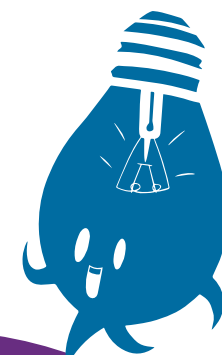


Ideas that matter need support

We have like-minded people who share our values and mission. Together with partner organizations, we create new projects and look for effective ways to empower youth.

 <p>Open Society Foundation Supports our stable work.</p>	 <p>Peace Nexus Helped us launch commercial services.</p>	 <p>UNICEF, USAID and MSDSP KG Together with them, we give young people more opportunities to develop their communities.</p>	 <p>Prague Civil Society Center (PCSC) Our joint project on gender sensitivity is one of the most successful in 2019. With the PGSC we also held a camp for girls from 7 different countries and a blogging school.</p>
 <p>UNFPA They are working with us to improve civic education. They also support the Cheksiz Dostuk project to promote peace, tolerance and good neighborliness among youth.</p>	 <p>The State Agency for Youth Affairs, Physical Culture and Sports It helped us to promote and implement activities.</p>	 <p>Saferworld We have created 10 youth spaces all over Kyrgyzstan.</p>	 <p>Local Self-Government We signed 26 memorandums of understanding and cooperation with them.</p>
 <p>KSUA, KNU named after Balasagyn, KRSU named after B.N. Yeltsin, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs The partner universities of our projects this year.</p>	 <p>Azattyk, Community Mass Media and Yntymak Became our media partners in a Kyrgyz-language media camp in Osh.</p>	 <p>The Agency for Primary Vocational Education and the Republican Scientific and Methodological Center Help us work with professional lyceums and promote our benefits.</p>	<p>During this year, we have organized dozens of projects in cooperation with a variety of organizations. We are pleased that our joint work brings rewarding experiences and impressive results. Long-term work with our partners is an indicator of the reputation of IDEA Central Asia. We are considered the leading youth organization in Kyrgyzstan and we look forward to continuing our work in the year ahead.</p>

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are clickable

www.ideaca.today

ideaca@idebate.org



+996 312 325 402



Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
21 Togolok Moldo St., apt. 73

Kyrgyzstan, Osh
339a Lenin St., Ololo Haus Osh