

Annual report  
**2021**



soros.kg



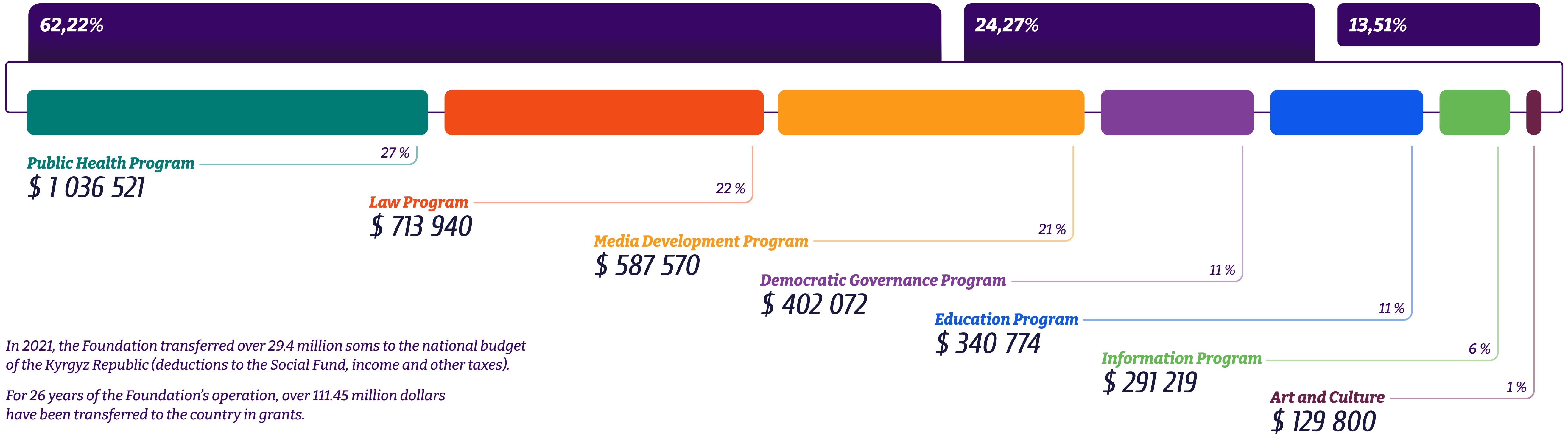
Overall budget

**\$ 4 048 749**

Grants  
**\$ 2 519 262**

Operational projects  
**\$ 982 634**

Administrative expenses  
**\$ 546 853**



In 2021, the Foundation transferred over 29.4 million soms to the national budget of the Kyrgyz Republic (deductions to the Social Fund, income and other taxes).

For 26 years of the Foundation's operation, over 111.45 million dollars have been transferred to the country in grants.

In 2021, the activities of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan were financed by the Open Society Institute (New York).

# Public Health Program

**\$1 036 521**



In 2021, the budget of the **Public Health Program** of \$1,036,521 was allocated to grants and operational projects supporting important public health issues, including support for stabilizing the COVID-19 incidence in Kyrgyzstan.

### Support for stabilizing the COVID-19 incidence in Kyrgyzstan

#### 8 call centers were deployed for Hotline 118

#### 94,299 people

consulted through Hotline 118, which prevented overburdening of health care organizations in July and August

#### 13,178 calls

referred to mobile teams of Family Medicine Centers through Hotline 118 in July-August

#### 169 registrars

from 158 immunization offices and 59 immunologists at the oblast and rayon level trained to work with the "Immunization" subsystem to keep track of those immunized

8000 FFP3 respirators

3000 disposable gowns

3000 medical caps

6000 pairs of shoe covers

7000 pairs of disposable gloves

540 packs of alcohol-based disinfectants

122 500 disposable medical masks

transferred to oblast-level hospitals and FMCs in Naryn, Talas, Batken, Chui oblasts and the city of Bishkek.



### Mental health

#### 6 mln soms

allocated from the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund for 13 multidisciplinary teams working in Osh, Jalal-Abad, Chui oblasts and Bishkek to provide services to patients with mental disorders

#### 5,646 people

including citizens abroad, received psychological assistance to relieve anxiety and stress related to COVID-19

#### 798 people

affected by the military conflict in Batken received psychological assistance

#### 86 specialists (physicians, nurses, subspecialists with Family Medicine Centers)

trained to help patients with depression, suicidal risk, substance abuse, children and adolescents with mental and behavioral disorders

**Reducing legal barriers to HIV prevention and harm reduction programs:**

**620 violations**

*of the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups detected by community defenders*

**3,300 people**

*from key populations received advice on overcoming legal barriers*

*Support was provided to attorneys in several precedent-setting cases related to protecting the rights of children infected with HIV in children's territorial hospitals in Osh oblast in 2006-2007. In three suits, the Pervomaisky District Court of Bishkek issued rulings on the recovery of 250,000 soms in compensation for non-pecuniary harm.*



**Palliative care:**

**The Ministry of Health approved the Cancer Control Program**

*which includes basic health services and resources that significantly improve the quality of cancer care*

**The first Palliative Care Resource Centre opened in the Kyrgyz Republic**

*at FMC #8 in Bishkek to introduce standards and methods of diagnosis and treatment of palliative patients and training of health workers*

**363 patients**

*received palliative care at home from 3 multidisciplinary teams in Bishkek and Osh*

**1,294 patients**

*advised through hotline on the treatment of pain syndrome, selection of analgesic drugs, morphine titration, and the rules of prescribing opioid analgesics at FMC*

**334 health workers** *(272 physicians and 62 nurses)*

*from Batken, Naryn and Talas oblasts trained on palliative care, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of COVID-19*



**Budget advocacy for health programs, transparency, and accountability of external assistance:**

**2 projects**

*to provide services to vulnerable and marginalized groups were implemented by PF Believe in Yourself (Kara-Balta) under the municipal social contract*

**56 doctors trained on COVID-19 and palliative care**

*53 health workers (including 19 residents) participated in master classes on palliative care*

**Algorithm on palliative care in the COVID-19 context finalized and included into the curriculum of the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute for Retraining and Professional Development**

**8 videos on caring for seriously ill people produced and placed on social media**

# Law Program

**\$ 713 940**



The 2021 budget of the **Law Program** was \$713,940 and included grant activities and operational projects promoting legal transformation in Kyrgyzstan, the values of human rights, the rule of law and an open society.

*The October 2020 events in Kyrgyzstan led to significant changes in the Constitution, the state structure, and the legal system of Kyrgyzstan.*

*2021 was marked by large-scale changes: an inventory of legislation, alignment of key constitutional laws with the Constitution, and changes in criminal, judicial, and other legislation. The announced constitutional reform, referendum, structural changes in the government and state bodies, and other innovations have significantly changed the situation in the rule of law, human rights, freedom of speech, expression and peaceful assembly, and further implementation of judicial and legal reforms.*

*In 2021, the Law Program facilitated a public consensus aimed at sustainable development of the country and the creation of dialogue platforms. The Program also consolidated the efforts of civil society to maintain achievements in such fields as human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination, independence of the judiciary, freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, preservation and compliance with minimum international standards, and support for human rights organizations.*



### Contributing to preserving the independence of the judiciary

#### **5 draft laws regulating the judicial system improved**

*through consultations, discussions at roundtables with the participation of judges, members of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, legal scholars, and representatives of civil society.*

### Advocating for human rights provisions and progressive innovations in the criminal justice systems

#### **73 articles**

*published in various media*

#### **8 episodes**

*participation in TV and radio programs*

#### **2 video interviews**

*in which experts provided analysis and recommendations for the improvement of the draft laws of the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Code of Misconduct*

### Contributing to the Inventory process

#### **Human rights reviews**

#### **4 in-depth analyses of legislation**

#### **23 open appeals**

#### **29 working meetings**

#### **1 roundtable**

# Media Development

**\$ 587 570**





In 2021, the **Media Development Program** (\$587,570) supported grant and operational projects aimed at improving the quality of the content of the Kyrgyz media, particularly in the Kyrgyz-language segment, for the overall enhancement of the information field in Kyrgyzstan, the rights to freedom of speech, expression, and access to information.

**During 2021, the Program worked in the following areas:**

Supporting media organizations defending the freedom of speech and freedom of expression as the basis of an open society, to ensure a broad discussion of the adopted legislative initiatives;

Creating and promoting new media formats on the basis of IDEA CA under the MediaJasa project;

Supporting investigative journalism with a focus on the Kyrgyz language segment and the regions.



In 2021, **the Media Policy Institute** in the framework of the SFK project achieved the following indicators:



### 5 legal proceedings

to protect media and journalists' rights

### 70 legal consultations

for journalists and media organizations

### 25 journalists

took part in a 2-day training on emotional burnout

### 10 appeals and statements

in defense of journalists' rights

### 25 journalists

participated in a 3-day training on digital, legal and physical security

In 2021, PA Journalists held **10 training webinars** on journalism, prepared **20 analytical materials** on the state of journalism in Kyrgyz language, distributed **106 vests** to journalists before the referendum and presidential election.

The Factchek.kg editorial team produced 180 stories in Russian and Kyrgyz in 2021 as part of the SFK project.

These materials included 24 "media criticism" items, 12 investigations, and 144 fact-checks.

7 investigative stories on corruption, financial fraud, urban development, and education in Russian and Kyrgyz were released as part of the "**Support to partner projects in the independent media**" project.

As part of the project to **develop regional investigative journalism**, 1 training session was organized in Osh, 12 investigations were supported, 2 public hearings on 3 investigations in Osh and Batken were held, 8 masterclasses in Kyrgyz language were conducted with the participation of leading journalists of the country.

Under the MediaJasa project, 260 applications were reviewed, and 13 media projects were supported. The total audience of the projects was more than 10,000,000 views, 5 TV channels.

Kloop held 3 journalism schools and trained over 70 trainees. More than 5,000 original publications in the Kyrgyz language were issued. The number of visitors to the website increased twofold.

**10 journalistic and documentary materials** supported through targeted and competitive grants received recognition, nominations and awards at various international and national awards and contests.

# Democratic Governance

**\$ 402 072**



The **Democratic Governance** Program, facilitating civic participation and promoting the principles of democratic governance, implemented several projects through open grant competitions, targeted grants, and operational activities within a budget of \$402,072.

2021 was the Program's first year when the topic of democratic governance was especially relevant to the nation.

A big focus of the Program in 2021 was projected in applied research and analytics such as research on corruption, analytical projects of the Social Innovation Lab, and the launch of the Civic City Dashboard ([civicdata.kg](http://civicdata.kg)).

Another important area was projects of educational nature – supporting the Academy of Civic Education and academic certification of the anti-corruption program.

The third area was the projects on civic participation, grants targeting the implementation of the civic engagement projects and supporting the largest civic event – the Kyrgyz Citizens' Forum.

13 civic engagement projects

25 graduates of the Academy for Civic Education

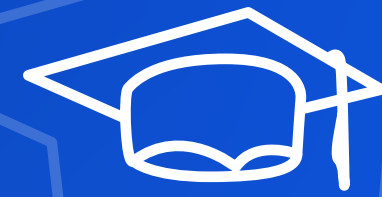
6 research works on corruption in Kyrgyzstan

257 participants of the IV Kyrgyz Citizens' Forum from all over the country



# Education Program

**\$ 340 774**



In 2021, the **Education Program** continued supporting grant and operational projects with a budget of \$340,774 to create conditions to improve access to education for children with special educational needs (SENs) and from disadvantaged backgrounds.

### **Timely and comprehensive assistance to children with hearing impairment and combined diagnoses**

NGO Razvitiye with the support of SFK holds a series of training webinars to improve surdopedagogy skills in special educators. Specialists will have an extensive understanding of working with and educating children with SENs.

#### **Project objectives:**

##### **Upgrade the qualifications of specialists in hearing diagnostics and hearing aid fitting**

The development training will be conducted by the invited specialists from the St. Petersburg Center of Surdology and will last for 7 days.

##### **Purchase the necessary equipment for hearing diagnostics**

**Equip the room for hearing diagnostics** (set for diagnostics and fitting of hearing aids) to provide services to children and adults with hearing

### **Modern Management of Children with Down Syndrome**

The Public Foundation of Parents of Children with Down Syndrome “Sunterra-South” is working on the project “Down Syndrome: Not a Reason for Isolation”.

#### **Project objectives:**

Raise awareness among health workers about current ways of managing Down syndrome.

Educate parents on the developmental skills of children with Down syndrome.

Teach specialists at general education institutions to adopt an inclusive approach.

Prepare children with Down syndrome for inclusion by providing training and development.



## Inclusive education

### 27 titles and 2,765 copies

of teaching materials in Kyrgyz and Russian for pilot schools working with students with disabilities

### 204 parents

received professional advice on children's development and socialization

### 307 parents and 413 children

received remote psychological, medical and pedagogical support services during the pandemic

### 30 students

are undergoing "School Day" pedagogical internship at the Resource Center for Inclusive Education and pilot schools

### 340 students

supervised by teachers conducted the first student research on the level of inclusion and prepared a report on the state of inclusion in 35 schools

### 24 guest lectures

on inclusive education for Kyrgyzstani students with professors from foreign countries

### 387 children with SENs

are studying according to the adapted program developed by 22 schools of the Kyrgyz Republic

### 187 teachers

trained in organizing individual approaches to children with SENs in the past 3 years

### 314 children with disabilities

will receive training according to new individualized curricula in 29 social services offices across the Kyrgyz Republic

### 27 mothers

receive psychological support through the established hub for children with cerebral palsy

### 49 children

covered by rehabilitation services under the established hub for children with cerebral palsy

## Multilingual education

### 80 schools and 60 pre-school institutions

supported in the development of methodological and school materials on multilingualism, taking into account the requirements of international and national assessment systems such as the National Testing, National Assessment of Educational Achievements and Programme for International Student Assessment

### 5 universities and secondary vocational schools

involved in the project on multilingual education, including the development of curricula for the training of teachers of multilingual education

## Routes of care for children with special educational needs and their parents

### 10 children with SENs

in Osh receive pre-school training for:

### 150 parents

of children with SENs in the south of Kyrgyzstan studied the methods of support and quality adaptation of children in inclusive education

### in 4 regions of southern Kyrgyzstan

The experience of the Center for Children with Autism "AVA Mama+" in Osh was disseminated among active parents and professionals working with children with SENs



# Information Program

**\$ 291 219**





Grant and operational activities of the **Information Program** in 2021 (\$291,219) promoted technology to develop good governance, launched two new program areas to promote and increase understanding of their digital rights and develop a digital economy.



**60 students**

students and practitioners received training on digital rights, and 1 legal guide to digital rights was developed.  
<https://kglawsociety.org/>

**Over 2,000 participants**

took part in the 8<sup>th</sup> KIT-Forum (Kyrgyz IT Forum).



**Data of 900 migrant children**

collected on the website, 500 talk stories available on YouTube in the form of podcasts <https://900stories.emektep.info/>

**32 students**

from schools in the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan participated in the Programming School.

**Over 9,000 subscribers and over 500 thousand views**

of video about digital rights at @threedotsca @threedotsg (https://www.instagram.com/threedotsg/)



**580 business companies** surveyed as part of the ISOC's Personal Data Protection Study.

**Over 80 entrepreneurs** trained in digital entrepreneurship, 48 new business pages created on Instagram and 300 participants of Digital Ishker on digital entrepreneurship.

**20 videos**

(on the Youtube channel of TRC Yntymak) about digital rights in Kyrgyzstan in the Kyrgyz language.  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhn0Mnk8cC\\_x\\_5VNhpoPDCxYTrIPTIWR7](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhn0Mnk8cC_x_5VNhpoPDCxYTrIPTIWR7)



# Art and Culture

**\$ 129 800**



During 2021, the **Art and Culture** Program supported 22 independent art projects in the visual arts, music, film and theater sectors in Bishkek, Osh, Naryn and the towns of Issyk-Kul oblast thanks to budget allocations (\$129,800) in the form of scholarships, grants and operational activities,

The launch of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan Art and Culture Program in 2021 was an experiment where we considered art and culture as a tool for shaping public discourse. The first fundamental research of the program was “Cultural modernization points” which allowed us to form a priority area for the program activities. The main result was the confirmation that despite the rich cultural diversity of Kyrgyzstan, the country has very little policy and practice of managing this diversity.

At the same time, it is cultural diversity that is often a fundamental factor for economic development, tourist attractiveness, flourishing innovation and sustainability of the society.

#### Facilities used

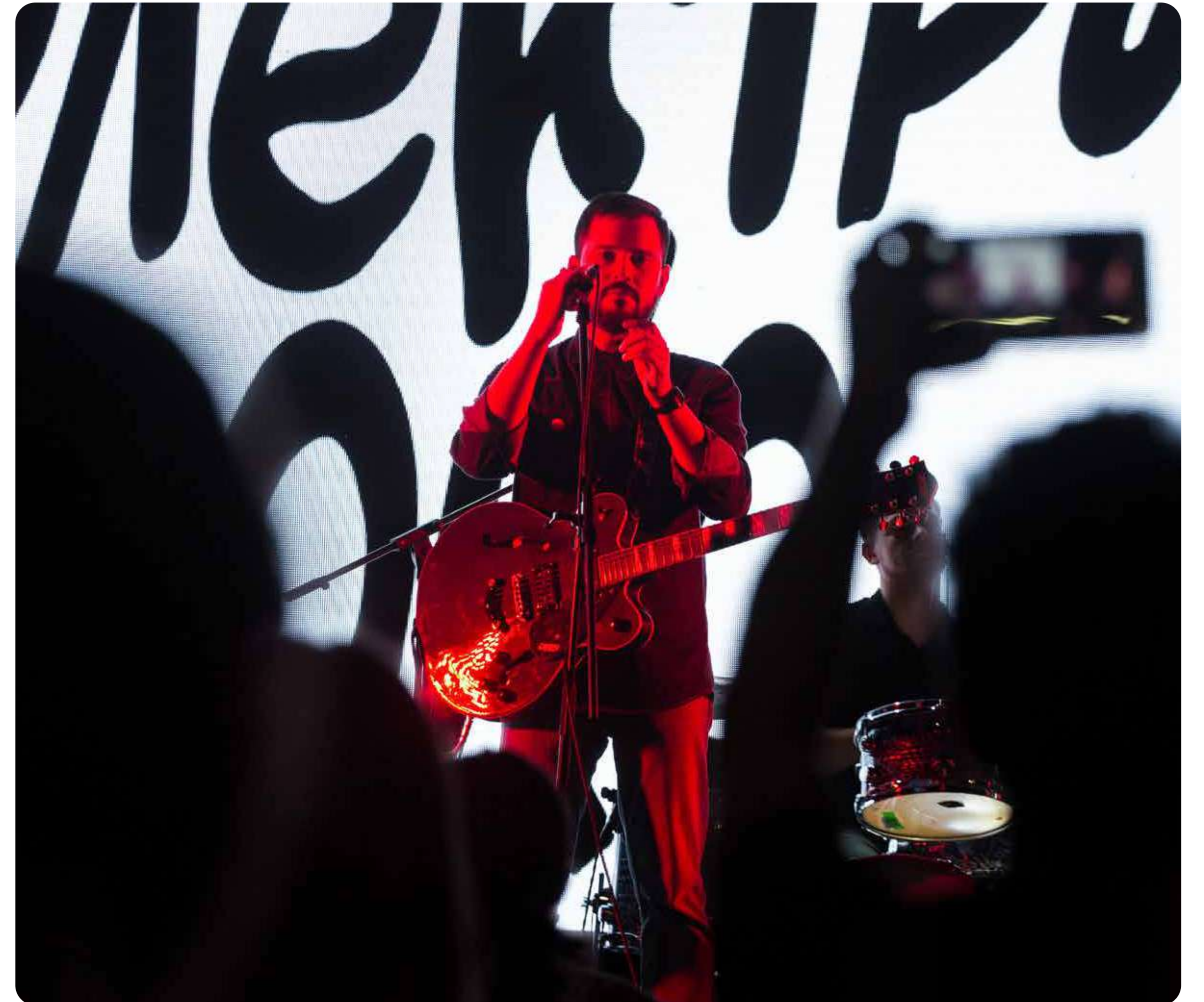
- 7 museum spaces
- 3 theater venues
- 2 concert spaces
- 4 Open Air locations

#### Activities conducted

- 8 exhibitions
- 6 concerts
- 7 film demonstrations
- Research presentation
- Over 15 masterclasses and lectures

**320 people**  
were involved  
as participants

Offline coverage of projects  
over **5,000 people**





We support the pursuit of an open society where we are all diverse but equal.  
Our mission is to help build a society in Kyrgyzstan based on the principles of justice, equality for all,  
active civic participation, and public accountability.

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A special thanks goes to the authors of the photo projects "The troubles and hopes of the people of Kyrgyzstan" Guliza Urustambek kyzy and "You are not alone" Gulzhan Turdubaeva who uploaded their works.

We would also like to acknowledge our partners for the photo materials that we used in the SFK 2021 Annual Report.