Culture projects advocacy with local government

CELoG program

The Civic Engagement in Local Governance (CELoG) Program is a five-year activity, aimed at increasing civic engagement in decentralization and local self-government reform. It provides citizens with reliable information and strengthens civil society's capacity to promote effective, accountable and participatory local governance. The Program is implemented by a Consortium of local organizations led by the Communities Finance Officers Association (CFOA) in cooperation with the Information Systems Development and Training Center (ISTDC), the Yerevan Press Club (YPC), the Asparez Journalists' Club (AJC), the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF), and the Caucasus Research Resource Centers-Armenia (CRRC). The Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

EPF is responsible for CSO capacity building and national public awareness campaigns and network-building through its networks of Infotuns and Youth Banks. EPF network of InfoTun is established in 8 major cities of 8 marzes in Armenia: Gyumri, Vanadzor, Ijevan, Vayk, Ararat, Goris, Martuni and Armavir. Each year EPF together with InfoTuns designs yearly activities in various community related areas which also includes cultural life of communities. As a part of these activities EPF holds consultancies for InfoTuns and coaches during all these activities.

Vayk InfoTun

Vayk InfoTun organized strategic planning session[1] for Art School, Cultural house and community library staff of Vayk community. The mentioned state non-commercial organizations discussed the current situation of cultural life at the community, developed strategic goals and objectives as well as list of activities to reach the mentioned goals.

Vayk InfoTun launched promotion of the idea "Every child in Vayk should get aesthetic education". Within the frames of this initiative the School of Art of Vayk community organized a concert with headline "The School of Art for public schools"[2]. Teachers, beneficiaries and students of School of Art presented their work and activities for the public school representatives who attended the event. In other words, the School of Art aims to become the hub for cultural events in the community.

Vayk InfoTun coordinator assists staff of library to effectively run the FB page of the library. In the previous reporting period, InfoTun together with the library staff developed the list of activities/events to be conducted by community library. "Literary Vayots Dzor"[3] event was organized by community library and was attended by the young writers and interested people of the region.

[1] https://www.facebook.com/vaykinfotun/posts/1812642409041252
[2] https://www.facebook.com/vaykinfotun/posts/1817944698511023?_rdc=1&_rdr
[3] https://www.facebook.com/vaykinfotun/posts/1846368195668673?_rdc=1&_rdr

Armavir InfoTun

Armavir InfoTun initiated stimulation of community cultural life through bringing together all the cultural institutions working in Armavir and finally develop the strategy of developing the culture in the community. InfoTun organized several meetings with the representatives from cultural sector such as School of Art, State College of Art in Armavir, House of Culture of Armavir City and School of Music in Armavir. InfoTun also conducted series of meetings with the students of the mentioned institutions.

Armavir InfoTun that was actively cooperating with Dramatic Theater of Armavir community, continued assisting theater and raising awareness about their activities. The number of likes and followers of Dramatic theater Facebook page increased by 50%. Theater staff organized casting[4] for new performance which will be staged during April. InfoTun staff organized strategic planning meeting[5] for the staff of Dramatic Theater.

Syunik InfoTun

Syunik InfoTun organized the training[6] for activists from Tatev consolidated community and later an initiative group was developed who discussed the community issues and identified the most relevant and feasible one for petition later to be involved in the community council sitting agenda. The initiative team decided to conduct the petition in Halidzor settlement and raise the issue of partial renovation of windows in the House of Culture in Halidzor (some of the windows have already been renovated). The initiative team collected the signatures required for petition (148) and presented the result to the head of Tatev community. Syunik InfoTun contacted the head of Tatev community Murad Simonyan who mentioned that they received the request and the issue will be included in the upcoming community council sitting agenda. The issue of renovating the windows of House of Culture was also raised by the administrative representative of Halidzor community by the request of InfoTun activists recently and the windows were partially renovated.

[4] http://infotun.armavirdc.org/1147.html
[5] http://infotun.armavirdc.org/1169.html
[6] https://www.facebook.com/pg/syunikinfotun/photos/?tab=album&album_id=775567915979992