



## Profile

The **Suq Festival**, founded in 1999, by Valentina Arcuri and Carla Peirolero, has become the symbol of an intercultural philosophy and aim. *Suq* is an Arabic word that means marketplace, but the Suq Festival embodies much more than that; it is a social and theatrical space where languages, sounds, flavours, arts and traditions do mix. An open space where each identity is represented. A space of soul where it's easier to defeat fears and prejudices. A place accessible to that audiences which are often marginalised.

Each summer almost 70.000 people visit the *Suq Festival* which takes place in the beautiful city of Genoa every June. The sectors of the public engaged are, in fact, very large due to both the thoroughly sought-after international representation of cultures and to the variety of events offered (theatre, music, dance, meetings and debates, book presentations, food, workshops, activities for children). In order to reach such a participation, the Suq Festival enhances a collaborative interaction between communities of immigrants and local communities by promoting mutual knowledge exchanges, partnerships and collaborations.

One of *Suq Festival* greatest achievement is its accessibility to a young and multicultural (often marginalised) audience by offering free entry, inexpensive tickets and setting theatre performances in innovative locations. The Festival has also been focused on maintaining a financial sustainability through the support of different partnerships, and on rising environmental awareness through good managerial practice and educational activities in alignment with the most important festivals in Europe.

The *Suq Festival* launched a theatre Company - **Compagnia del Suq** - specialised in intercultural theatre and social education, whose shows have been staged in important festivals and theatres in Italy and abroad. The main characteristic of the Company is the attention to exploit the talents and cultural heritage of its international artists and recreate the fascination of faraway places. It aims to open up new connections and unique exchanges through live music, shadow theatre, dance.

The Festival was named 'ideal European square' within the European Squares Project (2007) [1]; it has also received different acknowledgments over the years: since 2011 it has enjoyed UNESCO's patronage, and Best Practice in Cross-Cultural Dialogue (EU Report 2014) [2].

It's supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Liguria Region and Genoa City Hall.

[1] [http://www.iuav.it/Ateneo-cal/2007/09/immagini/Squares-for-Europe.doc\\_cvt.htm](http://www.iuav.it/Ateneo-cal/2007/09/immagini/Squares-for-Europe.doc_cvt.htm)

[2] [http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/culture/library/reports/201405-omc-diversity-dialogue\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/culture/library/reports/201405-omc-diversity-dialogue_en.pdf)

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