

Inspiration, co-creation and growth at the 2019 Youth Assembly

In April 2019, 85 young CIVICUS members from 40 countries and 57 different civil society organisations and movements gathered in Novi Sad, Serbia, for the Youth Assembly. The event was part of [International Civil Society Week 2019](#). The Youth Assembly, which celebrated its 9th edition this year, is a convening that boosts the skills and expands the networks of some of the world's most dynamic and engaged young activists, taking place every 18 months.



The focus of this year's Youth Assembly was to explore the conditions and mechanisms that strengthen the power of young people to effectively contribute towards a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Participants shared ideas on [youth civil society resourcing](#) and discussed how to [improve access to resources as young activists](#). The Youth Assembly served as a space to hold exploratory consultations around youth-led resourcing mechanisms.



Delegates also engaged in activism as a way to vehicle their ideas through videos, music, podcasts and creative writing, and they drafted [key messages to send out to donors and wider civil society](#).

Intercultural exchanges were also a fundamental part of the Youth Assembly. International partnerships were fostered as activists worked together on strategies to mobilise communities and movements [while ensuring diversity and inclusion](#). They also enjoyed storytelling as a way to reflect on youth empowerment and explore their motivations as activists.

Participants also used peer learning to build their skills on leadership, campaigning and resilience in a context of shrinking civic space.

If you couldn't make it this year, hopefully [this video](#) will help you feel some of the joy of attending.



Youth leadership, participation, inclusivity, peer-learning and creativity were the principles of the Youth Assembly, and they constituted the base of the debates and learnings. This successful Youth Assembly would not have been possible without the support of [KOMS - the Serbian National Youth Council](#) and the facilitation methodologies inspired from [RECREAR International](#).

Thank you to our partners and to all of the attendants for their passionate engagement. We hope you enjoyed the experience and were able to draw something useful for your work and your communities. It was a great pleasure to share ideas and practices with all of you and to work together with such inspiring and enthusiastic people!

The next Youth Assembly will take place in late 2020. Make sure to follow CIVICUS updates if you would like to join!

Many of the attendants created posts on the [CIVICUS Youth United!](#) Facebook group during the Youth Assembly. You can join the group and participate in those and other discussions.

You can write to us at youth@civicus.org if you have any suggestions or ideas for future events.

In solidarity,

The CIVICUS Youth team