



WHAT IS THE CIVICUS YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME (YAP) ALL ABOUT

THE HISTORY OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CIVICUS

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is a meeting place for civil society organisations and individuals dedicated to transforming their communities through meaningful engagement and impact. This dream started in 1993, and since then, the alliance has gathered the support of +12,000 members coming from every corner of the Earth. CIVICUS believes in collaborations and has partnerships with a wide range of organisations and citizens to implement global, participatory actions aimed at strengthening civil society. Currently, the alliance has +3,500 youth members, a big force behind our sustainable transformation of societies.

CIVICUS believes that young people are at the center of social transformation, innovation, and building societies that are youth-friendly and, it is not just about words but concrete actions. Since 2007, the organization started to host the CIVICUS Youth Assembly, a space to bring together some of the world's most dynamic young activists, creating a space to network and collaborate, while at the same time strengthening their involvement in civil society. Since 2018, CIVICUS has increased its efforts to better resource young grassroots activists leading positive transformation for their communities through the [Goalkeepers Youth Action Accelerator](#) and [Youth Action Lab](#), showing that there are great benefits of directly investing in young people to foster social transformation and, through this effort, influencing the global landscape to resource young activists and movements.

At an internal level, CIVICUS is also walking the talk. In 2010, the CIVICUS Board of Directors decided to start exploring options for a new CIVICUS youth initiative, which would further strengthen meaningful youth engagement in civil society. This was the seed planted to have youth at the center of CIVICUS work and, after several conversations, it led to the establishment of the Youth Advisory Group in 2013, a youth collective in charge of providing strategic tips, generating spaces within CIVICUS that are more youth-friendly, and co-creating new projects aimed specifically at strengthening youth participation in civil society. Thus, in 2016 the YAG proposed the establishment of the [CIVICUS Youth Action Team](#), which came with a permanent commitment of dedicated resources to foster better engagement relations with young members, making

their voices heard, their profiles raised and providing a space for their ideas to unfold. Since then, [CIVICUS Youth](#) is the community within CIVICUS bringing together young members under 30 years old and organisations working on children and youth issues.

THE ORIGINS OF THE CIVICUS YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME (YAP)

The 2021-2022 Youth Action Team noticed the importance of bringing together activists from all over the world to generate a community of peer learning, exchange, and collective strengthening. The YAT values the interaction with other human rights defenders from different regions of the planet and wanted to open up this opportunity to other talented young people who were looking for a space to keep strengthening their activism, build powerful networks, and have meaningful local influence through international support.

WHAT WILL THE YAP DO AND WHICH ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

1. Connecting young activists and promoting meaningful youth inclusion, capacity, and innovation in civil society.
2. Facilitate learning sessions about a topic of your expertise in your area of activism and youth engagement.
3. Tell the world what problems you face locally as a young activist and collaborate to produce a report on the State of Youth in Civic Space.
4. Plan and organize different campaigns and programmes to ensure the spread of effective activism in your community and region.
5. Share and circulate relevant local, and global opportunities to your community.
6. Collaborate and forge partnerships with different youth groups, social organizations, and international agencies to develop mutually beneficial programmes.

WHICH ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE YAP?

- The YAP will have one ambassador per country, among which one regional coordinator will be selected.
- The YAP is made up of **volunteering positions** for a period of at least 12-month, with the possibility of renewing your term.
- The YAP members must be aged between **18 – 30 years of age** at the time of selection into the position.

- The composition of the YAP will reflect a balanced representation of diversity and inclusion. A range of factors will be taken into consideration such as gender, age, indigenous identity, disability, ethnicity, race, amongst others, to ensure the experience and expertise are reflective of the young people from excluded groups we aim to support and amplify.
- The YAP will reflect a diverse composition of skills, languages, experiences, and movements/networks.
- Once selected, all YAP members must be CIVICUS voting members. Applicants may become a member at any time before they begin their term.

AM I THE ONE FOR THE YAP? IF YOU ANSWER YES TO THE QUESTIONS BELOW, IT IS A MATCH

- You are willing to spend time in this volunteering role. **This opportunity is not a grant or fellowship** but will open the door to access an international community of highly engaged activists.
- At the time of selection into the YAP, you are **18 – 30 years of age**.
- You are a **member(s) of youth-led** or youth-serving organizations, groups, collectives, networks, or movements that are advancing social, environmental, cultural, political, and/or economic justice.
- You are affiliated with a national youth **civil society network/group/movement**.
- For communication purposes, you must have intermediate oral and written skills in **English, Spanish, or French** as the Ambassadors meetings will be conducted in these languages. Selected candidates will be given support to take part in meetings and be able to express themselves.
- You are enthusiastic to meet CIVICUS Youth members and co-create solutions proactively
- You want to participate to strengthen the role of youth in civil society.
- It is an advantage if you have leadership qualities, the ability to mobilize people and organize groups and campaigns.
- You are available for 12 months to embark on yourself as a part of this experience.
- You are able to **work remotely**, ensure internet access, and be reasonably proficient in worldwide communication technologies (e-mails, Zoom, WhatsApp, social media, etc.).
- You are available and accessible to attend conference calls with the YAP and CIVICUS representatives and you are able to avail yourself for team activities up to **4 to 8 hours per month**.

WHAT WOULD MAKE ME A GOOD FIT?

- You are actively engaged in (a) national youth network(s)/movement(s) that has/have the potential for engaging young people and creating meaningful engagement opportunities for them.
- You are open-minded, embrace diversity, and show an intercultural understanding.
- You demonstrate experience and passion to mobilise networks and causes using effective communication, storytelling, and data.
- You demonstrate knowledge of the issues faced by youth in your country/region and have an interest in spreading them.
- You demonstrate experience and curiosity to connect with individuals and organizations at the national level working to expand the civic space.
- You demonstrate skills to mobilise solidarity networks.
- You demonstrate understanding and experience creating strategies and setting a vision.
- You demonstrate experience and knowledge for community or team building.
- You follow the principles of listening, honest feedback, and positive affirmations.
- Fighting for justice and social inclusion is the reason why you wake up in the morning.
- You love taking initiative, interacting with new people, searching for answers to difficult questions, and asking critical questions.
- You demonstrate a commitment to CIVICUS principles and values and respect its [code of conduct](#).

WHICH ARE THE PERKS OF BEING AN AMBASSADOR?

- Being recognized as part of an international community with some of the most inspiring young activists in the world.
- Gain experience working in a global environment, while leading projects with people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- Get the opportunity to showcase your activism work, achievements, and experience with youth all across the world.
- Enhance your networks, learn from global leaders and benefit from peer-to-peer training.
- Represent your country at the international level and get a kick-start for your international activism engagement.
- Improve the work you do in your local community through the incorporation of diverse global perspectives.

The mandate and expected duration of the Youth Ambassadors Programme is twelve months from December 2021 until December 2022. On the completion of the first term, a member may be eligible for a second term.

WHEN ARE THE MEETINGS TAKING PLACE?

The members of the YAP will ordinarily meet with their regional team. There will be bi-monthly meetings with the whole group of CIVICUS Youth Ambassadors on a date and time to be agreed upon by the members of the YAP, taking into consideration the availability of the highest number of members. Meetings will take place through Zoom. The Youth Action Team (YAT) will be responsible for circulating advance notice of these meetings, along with an agenda and background documents. The YAT will take and circulate short notes of each meeting. Meetings will ordinarily last between 60 and 90 minutes.

Members of the YAP will be expected to attend all ordinary meetings. **In the event that a member does not participate in more than three meetings without any valid excuse, the expectation will be that the member should resign and offer their place to another applicant.**

It is expected that the country ambassadors also engage with activists from their country and have regular meetings with them, thus mapping collectively with other youth the state of civil society in their community.

HOW IS THE SELECTION PROCESS LIKE?

An application form will be made available on the CIVICUS website for young people to apply for the role. Applications for membership of the YAP will be reviewed by the YAT and CIVICUS Youth Team. Each YAP member will be selected from a competitive process approved by the YAT. CIVICUS welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfill the specific profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic, or social origin, religion, belief, or sexual orientation.

1. The process will start with an open call published on the CIVICUS website.
2. Applicants will apply for the ambassador role through an online application form.
4. A shortlist of a maximum of 5 candidates per country will be created by a Selection Committee composed of the current YAT and the CIVICUS Youth team.
5. Selected CIVICUS Youth Ambassadors will be informed on the 30th of November 2021.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES TO STOP BEING PART OF THE YAP?

If a YAP Member resigns or does not satisfactorily fulfill their responsibilities (including remaining in contact with CIVICUS, YAT, and YAP for a period of three months without a reasonable explanation), the Team may vote by simple majority to remove and replace the member. The YAP member may be replaced and his/her/their term completed by the candidate who will be selected through a process agreed by the YAT.

WHO CAN MAKE CHANGES TO THESE GUIDELINES?

Changes to these guidelines can only be made by the YAT, listening to the recommendations for change made by the members of the YAP and members of the CIVICUS Youth Team.