

Covid-19 impact on youth spaces and youth participation

Civil society has been increasingly silenced in recent years, which has significantly narrowed the space for participation.

1 out of 10 youth organisations experienced difficulties accessing internet

1 out of 3 youth organisations experienced some or significant restrictions

ACCESSING AND ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE

Organisations' access to young people has been reduced due to Covid-19:

- 31% experienced very limited access.
- 52% experienced somewhat limited access.
- 35% created new offline spaces, while 42% created new online spaces.

1 out of 3 youth organisations experienced significant restrictions in participating

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

<20% of organisations were able to participate fully.

14% of organisations reported significant difficulties in organising or participating in public meetings or demonstrations.

60% of organisations reported a decrease in the engagement of young people in their activities.

1 out of 10 youth organisations experienced difficulties expressing themselves

FREEDOMS OF ASSOCIATION AND ASSEMBLY

>30% of organisations believe governments have used the pandemic to suppress their ability to participate in public meetings and demonstrations. 15% believe this was done to a significant extent.

1 out of 3 youth organisations did not receive support during the Covid-19 pandemic

ABILITY TO ACT AUTONOMOUSLY

>33% of the organisations report government interference through strict pandemic related rules and restrictions on access to funding.

~8% of organisations report significant obstacles imposed by governments, including:

- direct government control of received funds;
- lack of support in building capacity to apply for and manage foreign funds and to prove co-financing;
- lack of transparency in the decentralised distribution of EU funds.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Only 26% of organisations report they have full access to (financial) information from government sources.

>15% of organisations experienced significant difficulties or were unable to access information from government sources.

22% of organisations experienced some difficulties.

>22% of organisations did not have full internet access.

<30% of organisations were able to engage fully without fear of retribution.

YOUTH RIGHTS

SPACES FOR YOUTH!

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

