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World Festival of Youth and Students

The **World Festival of Youth and Students** is an international event, organized by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), a United Nations-recognized international youth non-governmental organization, jointly with the International Union of Students since 1947.

The festival has been held regularly since 1947 as an event of global youth solidarity for democracy and against war and imperialism. The largest festival was the 6th, held in 1957 in Moscow, when 34,000 young people from 131 countries attended the event. This festival also marked the international debut of the song "Moscow Nights", which subsequently went on to become perhaps the most widely recognized Russian song in the world. Until the 19th festival in Sochi, Russia in 2017 (with 185 countries participating),^[1] the largest festival by number of countries with participants was the 13th, held in 1989 in Pyongyang when 177 countries attended the event.^[2]

The World Federation of Democratic Youth was founded to bring together young people of both the socialist and capitalist countries to promote peaceful cooperation and mutual rejection of war. However, with the onset of the Cold War soon after, the organization and the festivals became a matter of contention within the rivalry. Because of the enormous expenditure and coordination required to support a youth festival, most of the early festivals were held in cities in the socialist countries of Europe. However, many festivals, both then and more so since, have been held in non-socialist countries, affirming the commitment to peaceful coexistence between the peoples living under the different systems.

The most recent festival took place in Sochi, Russia, from 13 to 22 October 2017.



The 10th World Festival of Youth and Students in 1972

Chronology

Edition	Year	Logo	Country	Host City	Participants	Number of Represented Countries	Motto
<u>1st</u>	1947		 <u>Czechoslovakia</u>	<u>Prague</u>	17,000	71	"Youth Unite, Forward for Lasting Peace!"
							"Youth Unite, Forward for Lasting Peace, Democracy, National

<u>2nd</u>	1949		 Hungary	<u>Budapest</u>	20,000	82	Independence and a better future for the people"
<u>3rd</u>	1951		 East Germany	<u>East Berlin</u>	26,000	104	"For Peace and Friendship – Against Nuclear Weapons"
<u>4th</u>	1953		 Romania	<u>Bucharest</u>	30,000	111	"No! Our generation will not serve death and destruction!."
<u>5th</u>	1955		 Poland	<u>Warsaw</u>	30,000	114	"For Peace and Friendship – Against the Aggressive Imperialist Pacts"
<u>6th</u>	1957		 Soviet Union	<u>Moscow</u>	34,000	131	"For Peace and Friendship"
<u>7th</u>	1959		 Austria	<u>Vienna</u>	18,000	112	"For Peace and Friendship and Peaceful Coexistence"
<u>8th</u>	1962		 Finland	<u>Helsinki</u>	18,000	137	"For Peace and Friendship"
							"For Solidarity,

<u>9th</u>	1968		 <u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>Sofia</u>	20,000	138	Peace and Friendship"
<u>10th</u>	1973		 <u>East Germany</u>	<u>East Berlin</u>	25,600	140	"For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship"
<u>11th</u>	1978		 <u>Cuba</u>	<u>Havana</u>	18,500	145	"For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship"
<u>12th</u>	1985		 <u>Soviet Union</u>	<u>Moscow</u>	26,000	157	"For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship"
<u>13th</u>	1989		 <u>North Korea</u>	<u>Pyongyang</u>	22,000	177	"For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship"
<u>14th</u>	1997		 <u>Cuba</u>	<u>Havana</u>	12,325	136	"For Anti-Imperialist Solidarity, Peace and Friendship"
<u>15th</u>	2001		 <u>Algeria</u>	<u>Algiers</u>	6,500	110	"Let's Globalize the Struggle For Peace, Solidarity, Development, Against Imperialism"
							"For Peace and Solidarity, We Struggle"

<u>16th</u>	2005		 <u>Venezuela</u>	<u>Caracas</u>	17,000	144	Against Imperialism and War"
<u>17th</u>	2010		 <u>South Africa</u>	<u>Pretoria</u>	15,000	126	"Let's Defeat Imperialism, for a World of Peace, Solidarity and Social Transformation!"
<u>18th</u>	2013		 <u>Ecuador</u>	<u>Quito</u>	8,500	80 ^[3]	"Youth Unite Against Imperialism, for a World of Peace, Solidarity and Social Transformation!"
<u>19th</u>	2017		 <u>Russia</u>	<u>Sochi</u>	30,000	185 ^[4]	"For peace, solidarity and social justice, we struggle against imperialism. Honoring our past, we build the future!"

References

- ^[1] "#WFYS2017" (<http://russia2017.com/en>). *russia2017.com*.
- "North Korea's Would-Be Olympics: A Tale of a Cold War Boondoggle" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/04/world/asia/north-korea-olympics.html>). *nytimes.com*.
- "El festival busca que los jóvenes tengan presencia" (<http://www.telegrafo.com.ec/politica/item/el-festival-busca-que-los-jovenes-engan-presencia.html>). *telegrafo.com.ec*.
- "#WFYS2017" (<http://russia2017.com/en>). *russia2017.com*.

External links

- Official Website of the 17th World Festival of Youth and Students (<http://www.wfdy.org/17wfys/>)
- Official Website of the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students (<http://www.russia2017.com/en/#/>)
- Official Website of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (<http://www.wfdy.org/>)
- Chronology of World Festivals of Youth and Students (<https://web.archive.org/web/20070928011740/http://www.chengetheworld.org/fr/index.php?op=page&pid=870>)
- 16th World Festival of Youth and Students (<https://web.archive.org/web/20051001011825/http://www.festivalmundial2005.org.ve/>), Official Website
- Video of the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas (<http://www.ameriquebec.net/2006/06/21-video-sur-le-festival-mondial-de-la-jeunesse-a-caracas.html>)
- North Korea Youth Festival 1989 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxJ6Ed5h65k>)

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