



PHOTO BY EXIT FOUNDATION

# EXIT FESTIVAL

EXIT is a summer music festival at the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia, with more than 1,000 artists who play at over 40 stages and festival zones.

The festival was founded in 2000 in University Park as a student movement fighting for democracy and freedom in Serbia and the Balkans. After the Yugoslavian general election in 2000, EXIT moved to the Petrovaradin Fortress in 2001, where it has stayed ever since.

As the festival was formed in the spirit of genuine youth rebellion, as a movement for freedom in Serbia and peace in the Balkans, the festival's mission statement has been clear from the beginning – to achieve social change through the power of music. Social responsibility is still the key aspect of the festival activities, focusing on environmental and humanitarian activities, creative industries development, destination branding, and regional cooperation.

## CASE: STATE OF EXIT ZONE

At the EXIT Festival, the central point of the social programs every year is the traditional State of EXIT Zone. Since EXIT Festival arose from social activism, the interactive program of non-governmental organisations is located at the heart of the festival site.

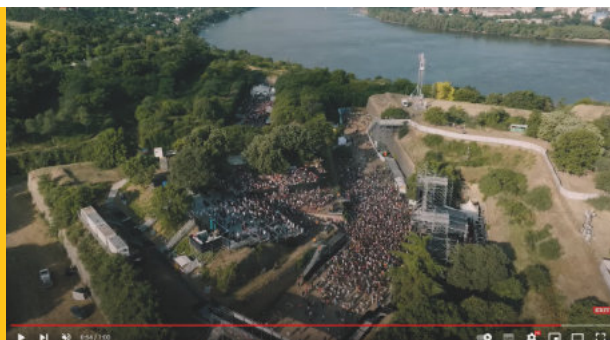
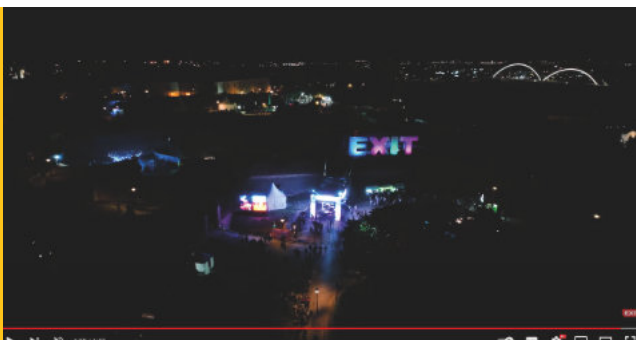
Each year, about 50 organisations and institutions from Novi Sad, Serbia, the entire region, and Europe get a chance to present themselves at the State of EXIT Zone, where young people from all over the world get to know each other and exchange ideas about regional support and cooperation. They get to meet each other and talk about the problems of young people, together finding the solutions and becoming more active in changing the world they live in.

### PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES FOR AN AUDIENCE HUNGRY FOR CHANGE

Discussions on important topics are initiated at the State of EXIT Zone, where a broad series of workshops, panel discussions, music, exhibitions, and other content invite participants to engage.

This is one of the most visited zones during the EXIT Festival. In addition to participative workshops on human rights, reconciliation, freedom of speech, quizzes, screenings of short films, dance workshops, and photo booths, all festival guests have the opportunity to make something together each year. For example, in 2017, the festival guests jointly created a statue of peace and friendship from recycled material during four festival days.

Some of the most prominent intellectuals, social activists and initiators of positive changes have been hosted at the State of EXIT Zone. Some of the topics initiated at this modern forum turned out to be turning points for critical societal changes.



## COOPERATIVE INVOLVEMENT OF BOTH IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS AND FESTIVAL GUESTS

EXIT festival has developed a strong focus on protecting our planet and all life inhabiting it. Their commitment to nature is lifted through systematic work with important ecological stakeholders, who recognise this idea and mission as crucial. Under the slogan "Give back to nature – join and plant a tree", Foundation EXIT and #EUforYOU organised an action of planting trees in the fall with 10,000 seedlings.

At the OPENS State of EXIT zone during the EXIT festival, guests could take part in painting a tree canopy on canvas and thus sign up for a tree planting action.

**Name:** EXIT Festival

**City & country:** Novi Sad, Serbia

**Capacity:** 180,000 (over 4 days)

**Site:** Petrovaradin Fortress

**Camping:** Yes

**Number of days:** 4

**Established in:** 2000



PHOTO BY EXIT FOUNDATION