

Institute for Educational Research, Belgrade, Serbia  
Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia  
Center for Positive Youth Development, Belgrade, Serbia



33rd International Scientific Conference  
Educational Research and School Practice

# From Positive Youth Development to Positive Youth Justice

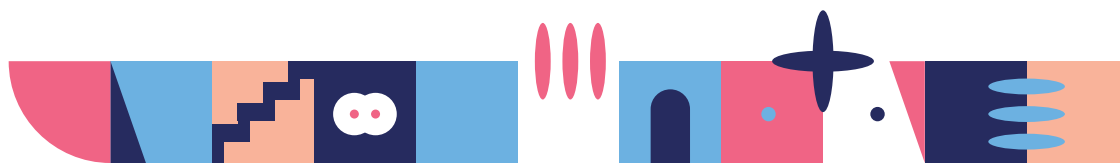
## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

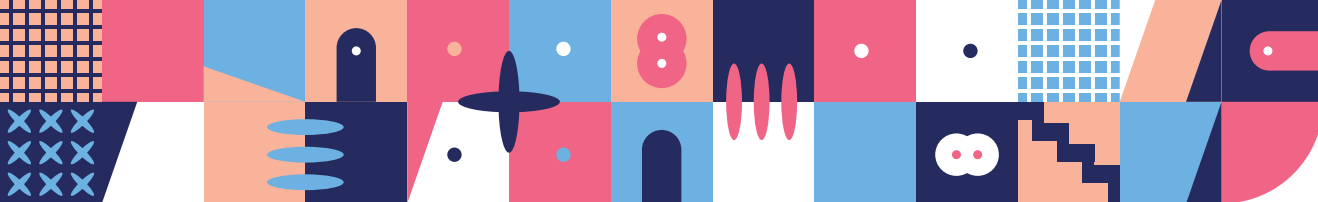
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December 4, 2025





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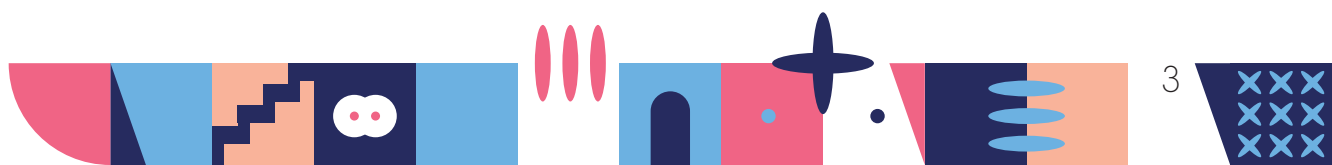
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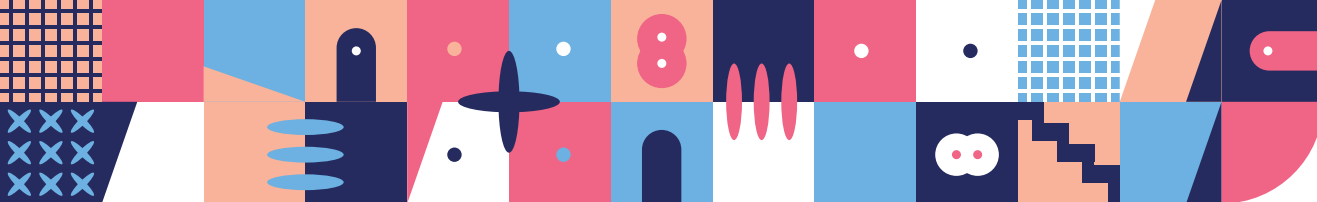
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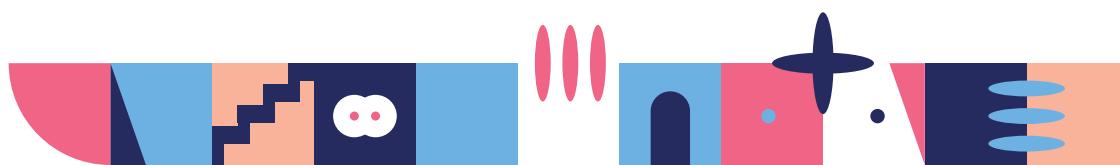
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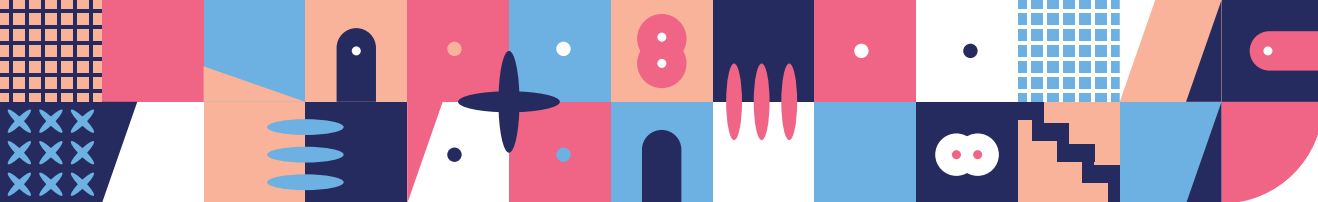
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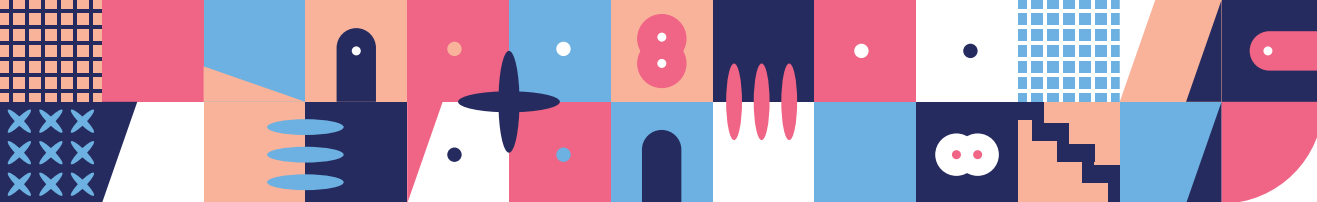
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## FROM DISAFFILIATION TO ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP: PROMOTING PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO EMPOWERING YOUTH WORKERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN OVERCOMING DISAFFILIATION

**Ana PARAUŠIĆ MARINKOVIĆ\***, ORCID: 0000-0002-7880-7379

Institute of Criminological and Sociological Research, Belgrade, Serbia

**Branislava POPOVIĆ-ČITIĆ**, ORCID: 0000-0002-1076-5838

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Belgrade, Serbia

**Lidija BUKVIĆ**, ORCID: [0000-0001-8161-1337](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8161-1337)

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Belgrade, Serbia

**Dragana BOGIĆEVIĆ**, ORCID: [0009-0007-0388-2968](https://orcid.org/0009-0007-0388-2968)

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, Belgrade, Serbia

French sociologist Robert Castel developed the concept of disaffiliation (fr. *désaffiliation*) to describe the process by which people become disconnected from key social institutions such as the labor market, education system, and social welfare structures. This concept is used in social, political, and economic contexts, often highlighting issues of marginalization, disenfranchisement, or lack of belonging. It is highly influential in understanding the marginalization of youth in contemporary society, especially in the context of growing precariousness. This paper aims to present disaffiliation as a solid scientific basis for developing participatory action projects aimed at developing practical measures for tackling youth disengagement and empowering youth workers to support young people in enhancing their employment prospects, family relationships, sense of initiative, and active citizenship. The objectives of and activities within the project entitled *Youth in Route: Routes for Fostering Sense of Initiative and Active Citizenship Among Disaffiliated Youth* are presented as a case study. The key project outcomes relate to a three-level training program for youth workers, covering theoretical understanding, practical challenges, and actionable methodologies for both preventive and interventive measures addressing youth disaffiliation; a youth-led digital incubator platform and integrated toolkit, offering resources on personal growth, career opportunities, and community engagement; and youth-led policy journey maps, illustrating routes from challenges to solutions in youth disaffiliation. Methodologically, the project relies on mixed-method and participatory approaches, implementing surveys, focus group interviews, workshops, storytelling circles, and more.

**Keywords:** disaffiliation, youth disaffiliation, youth work, participatory action project

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\* parausicana@gmail.com