

Institute for Educational Research (IER) in partnership with Centre for Positive Youth Development and Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research invites submissions for 2025 Conference in Belgrade.

Theme of 33rd IER Conference:

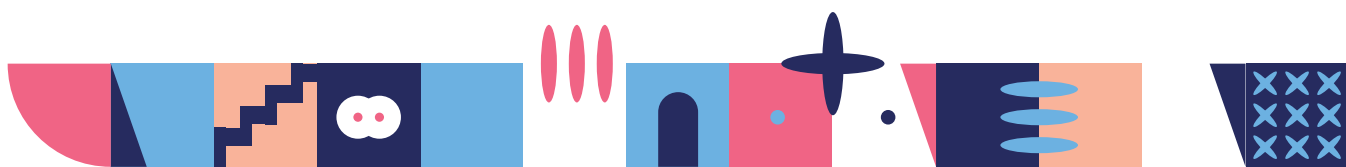
# From Positive Youth Development to Positive Youth Justice

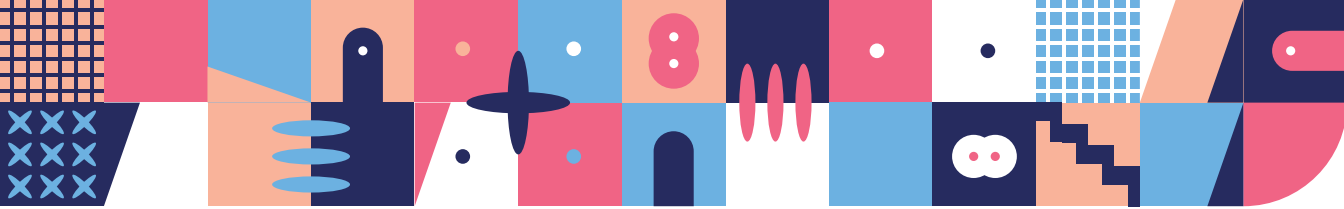
Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research  
December 4th

Across the globe, societies are reconsidering how best to support young people—through families, schools, and communities, especially for those facing adversity or being involved in the justice system. In Serbia, the youth have recently encountered serious challenges, including mass shootings in schools and community, as well as open crises in education, higher education, and the broader political sense. Nevertheless, comprehensive support for children and youth at the whole-school and community levels remains insufficient. At the same time, youth justice practices rarely rely on deficits and punitive responses, often overlooking young people's strengths, potential, and capacity for growth and positive change.

The aim of this conference is to create a collaborative space for researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers to come together and explore how positive youth development approaches can contribute to the brighter future for youth. Through discussions on supportive relationships, mental health, restorative justice, equitable education, resilience, etc., the conference will highlight how positive youth development and youth justice can work in synergy to foster well-being and justice for all young people.

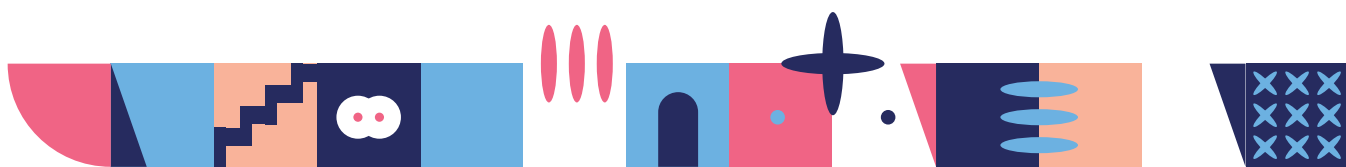
Empirical, theoretical, and methodological submissions from various disciplines related to positive youth development and youth justice are welcome.

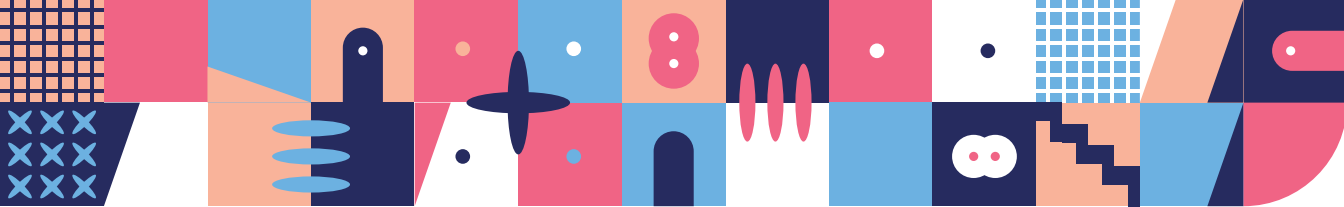




## Thematic Topics

- Positive Youth Development Methodology (e.g., frameworks, assessments and research designs);
- Mental Health, Youth Well-being and Positive Youth Development (e.g., anxiety, depression, addiction, aggression, mental health literacy, risk, protective, promoting factors, life satisfaction, optimism, perception of future);
- Family Relationships and Positive Youth Development (e.g., parent-adolescent relationship, relationship with siblings, parental monitoring, parental practice);
- Peer Relations and Positive Youth Development (e.g., friendship, online communities, bullying);
- Identity and Positive Youth Development (e.g., digital identity, gender and sexual identity, cultural identity, youth voice and agency);
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) (e.g., students, teachers, youth workers and parental involvement in SEL, SEL curriculum, school climate);
- Social Justice and Positive Youth Development (e.g., equity, agency, critical consciousness, civic engagement, participatory action research; trauma- and violence- informed care);
- Youth Justice Frameworks (e.g., restorative youth justice, positive youth justice, trauma-informed justice, rights-based framework, participatory framework);
- Youth Justice Interventions (e.g., victim-offender mediation, diversion programs, community sanctions, mentoring, trauma-informed and mental health intervention);
- Positive Youth Development, Education and Professional Development (e.g., achievement, motivation, engagement, professional orientation, education of juvenile offenders);
- Ethics in Positive Youth Development Research (e.g., obtaining consent, compensation, the level of youth participation, access to correctional facilities, privacy protection).





## XXXX Keynotes

### **Miranda Novak**

Professor, Department of Behavioral Disorders, Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Zagreb

**Longitudinal dynamics of positive youth development and its key correlates**

### **Ksenija Krstić**

Professor, Developmental and Educational Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

**Positive... for Whom? Equity, Culture, and Context in PYD**

### **Jelena Pavlović**

Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade

**Designing AI for positive youth development**

### **José Pinto**

Professor, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD, Portugal), President of the Portuguese Prison Education Association

**Form policy to practice: a focus on prison education in Europe and Portugal**

### **Sanja Čopić**

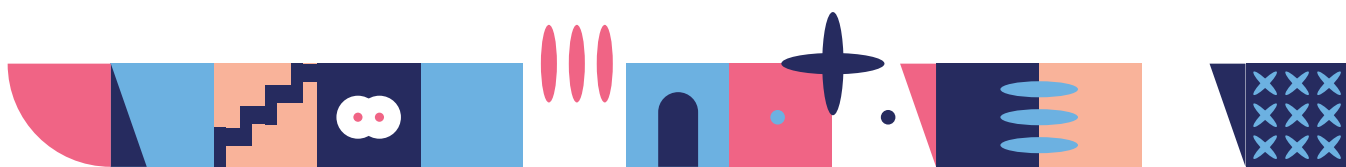
Professor, Prevention and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders Department, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade

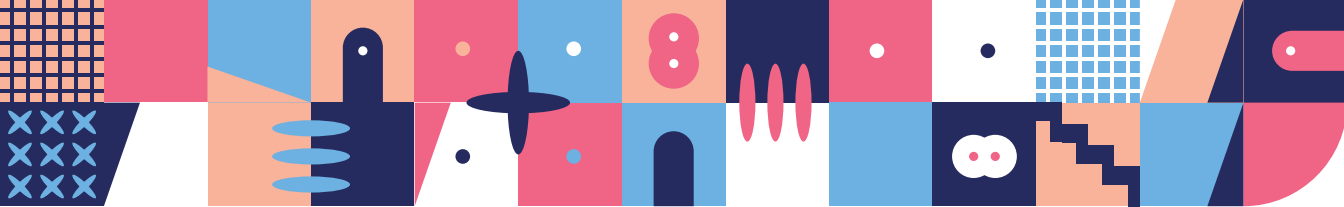
**Restorative justice approaches to youth crime: towards a positive youth justice system**

### **Myunghoon Roh\***

Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Salve Regina University

**\*Professor Roh will speak online, with the title to be announced at a later date**



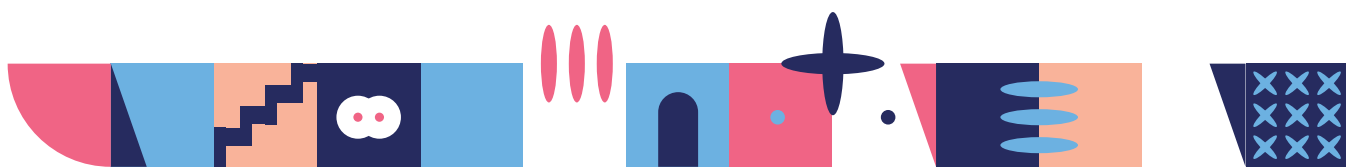


**Miranda Novak** has a master's degree in psychology and a PhD in Prevention Science. Her research interests are rooted in the interdisciplinary field of prevention science and mental health promotion, with a special focus on youth mental health and positive development, specifically, socio-emotional learning, and internalized problems prevention in children and youth. She is an associate professor at the Department of Behavioral Disorders at the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Zagreb.

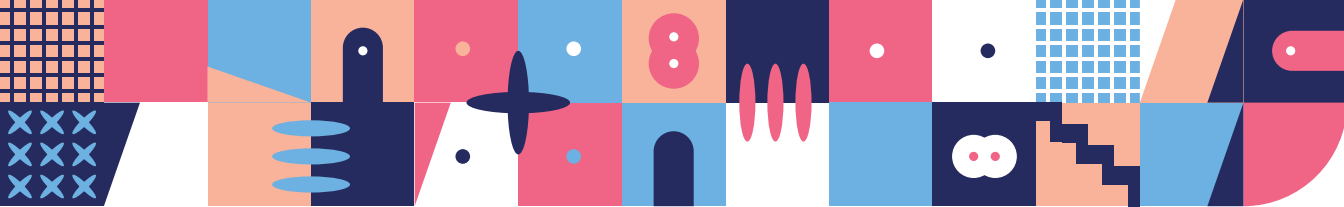
From October 2023 she is a Head of Doctoral study program Prevention Science: Prevention of Mental and Behavioral Disorders and Mental Health Promotion. She is an active member and one of the founders of Laboratory for Prevention Research (PrevLab) that gathers a group of scientists researching development and application of effective models for the transfer of prevention science into practice. PrevLab has received two important international awards: 1) 2018 - Sloboda Medal Award of European Society for Prevention Research and 2) 2022 - The American Society for Prevention Research International Collaborative Prevention Research Award.

During 2019, she received a Fulbright scholar program scholarship that was awarded for her project "Adolescent mental health and wellbeing: Investing in healthy emotional functioning" at the Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Oregon. In her career so far, she has been an associate on 18 scientific research projects. She is currently leading a project »Testing the 5c framework of positive youth development: traditional and digital mobile assessment P.R.O.T.E.C.T.« funded by installation fund of Croatian Science Foundation.

She has received an award of Education and Rehabilitation Faculty during 2021 for outstanding engagement in community during Covid-19 pandemic. From 2020 to 2023, she has also collaborated with UNICEF Office for Croatia who has funded a platform for youth positive development, Pukotine ([www.pktn.hr](http://www.pktn.hr)).







## José Pinto

### Academic background

- PhD and Master's in Educational Sciences from the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD, Portugal).
- Diploma in Advanced Studies in Didactics and School Organization from the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

### Professional activity/experience

- Assistant Professor (Invited) at UTAD (2021-2024).
- Assistant Professor (Invited) at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal (2021-2022).
- Serving the Ministry of Education - over 15 years of teaching experience in correctional facilities across the country.

### Current positions

- President of the Portuguese Prison Education Association (APEnP) - [Associação Portuguesa de Educação nas Prisões], seconded to UTAD, where APEnP is based.
- Representative of Southern Europe on the Executive Committee of the European Prison Education Association (EPEA).
- Coordinator of APEnP's participation in European projects (Erasmus+).

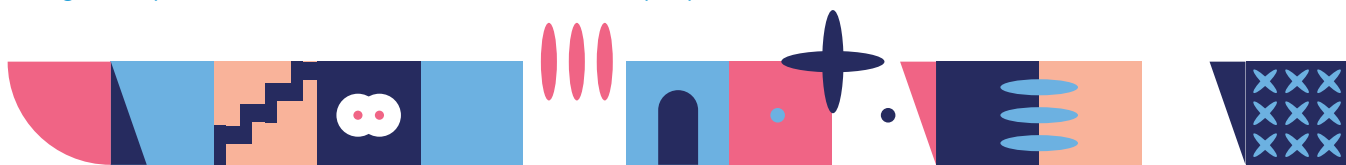
### Publications

PINTO, José & LOUREIRO, Armando (2024). "Prison Education in Portugal: how a greater commitment to ICT can contribute to the development of Education in Prisons". In *Proceedings of the 18th International Conference EUTIC 2023: Digital Humanism and Social Sustainability* [11-13 October 2023], pp. 105-119 (published 8 October 2024 - updated 25 November 2024). Université Bordeaux Montaigne (France): <https://doi.org/10.58079/12hkm>

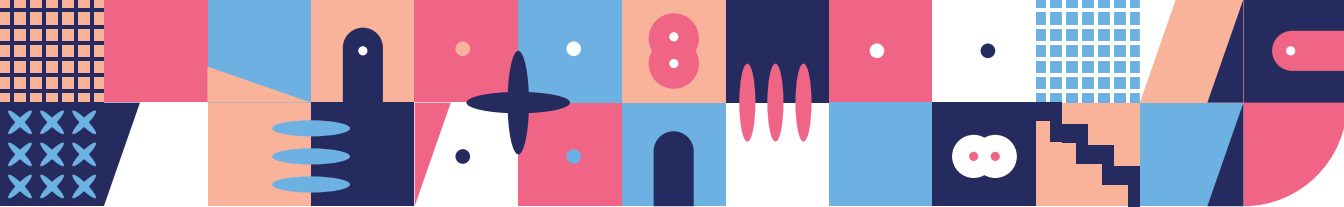
PINTO, José & LOUREIRO, Armando (2023). "Autobiographical experiences of the Portuguese Association of Education in Prisons". In AA.VV., *Handbook. Autobiographical strategies in Penitentiary Pedagogy. The Chrysalis and the Butterfly Project*. Laertes S. L. (Ed.), pp. 33-53. ISBN 978-84-19676-19-1 <https://candb.splet.arnes.si/handbook-autobiographical/>

PINTO, José (2022). "A Educação nas Prisões em Portugal – do passado ao presente formando o futuro". In Loureiro, Armando & Pinto, José Alberto (coord.). *Educação nas Prisões – Rumos e Desafios / Prison Education – Paths and Challenges*. Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro e Associação Portuguesa de Educação nas Prisões (org.). Edição: Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, pp. 11-20. ISBN 978-989-704-506-6 [https://apenp.pt/images/Noticias/Prison\\_Education/Educacao\\_nas\\_Prisoes\\_-\\_Prison\\_Education.pdf](https://apenp.pt/images/Noticias/Prison_Education/Educacao_nas_Prisoes_-_Prison_Education.pdf)

PINTO, José (2020). "A educação em contexto prisional em Portugal: um apontamento histórico". In Moreira, J. António; Caeiro, Domingos; Trindade, Sara Dias (coord.). *Educação, formação e transformação digital em estabelecimentos prisionais* [Em linha]. Lisboa: Universidade Aberta, pp. 09-24 (eUAb. Educação a Distância e eLearning; 8). ISBN: 978-972-674-868-7 [https://estudogeral.uc.pt/bitstream/10316/94187/1/EBOOK\\_FINALpdf.pdf](https://estudogeral.uc.pt/bitstream/10316/94187/1/EBOOK_FINALpdf.pdf)







## XXXX Invited Symposia

### Introductory lecture and chair:

**Ana Radanović**, Research Assistant

Institute for Educational Research, Belgrade

#### Understanding and responding to youth mental health within the school context in Serbia

**Branislava Popović-Ćitić**, Professor

Prevention and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders Department, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade.

Founder of Center for Positive Youth Development - CEPORA

**Lidija Bukvić**, Director of CEPORA, and teaching assistant Prevention and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders Department, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade.

#### Positive youth development research in Serbia

**Milica Kovačević**, Professor

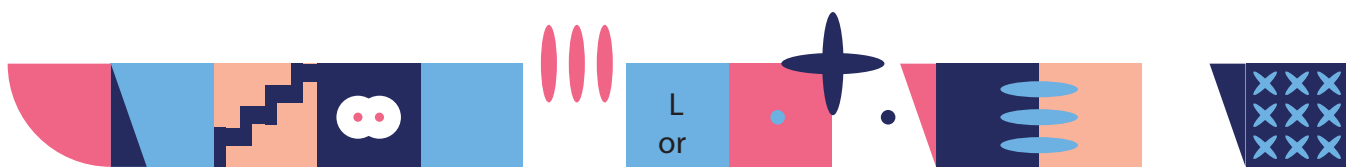
Prevention and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders Department, Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Belgrade

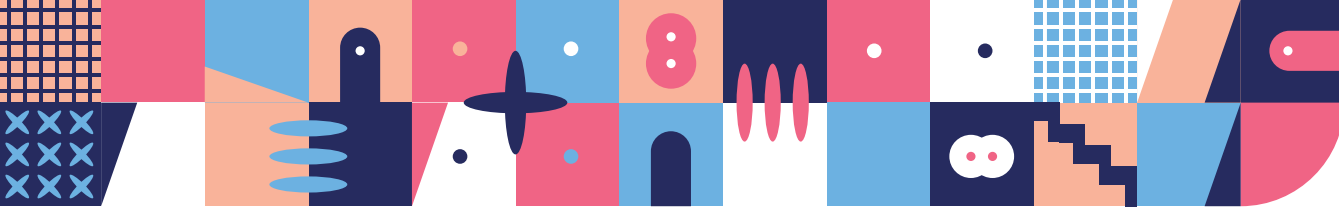
#### Juvenile justice and education

**Jelena Tanasijević**, Professor

Department of Social Work, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad

#### The Needs and Position of Young People with Experience of Growing Up in Alternative Care in Serbia: Perspectives of Youth and Practitioners





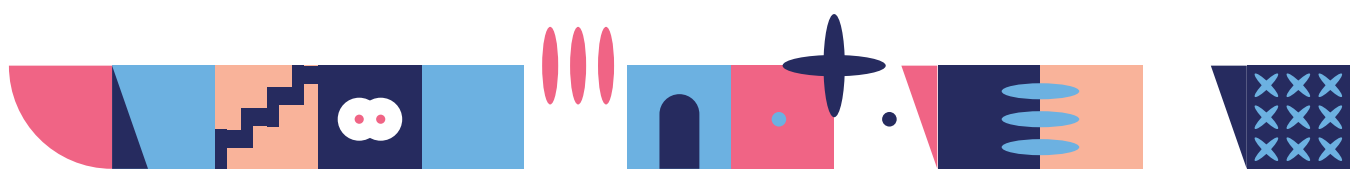
**Ana Radanović** is a psychologist and Research Associate at the Institute for Educational Research. Her work focuses on the mental health of children and adolescents, as well as on ethical principles in research involving these populations. She is also a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, with a dissertation centered on nonsuicidal self-injury in children and adolescents. Ana is a psychotherapist under supervision, working directly with children and youth. She collaborates on UNICEF projects in Serbia and has published many papers in international scientific journals. Her research has been presented at numerous international academic and professional conferences. Ana's mission is to improve the mental health of children and adolescents by strengthening their skills and competencies and enhancing the systems they interact with - the healthcare, education, and broader social systems.

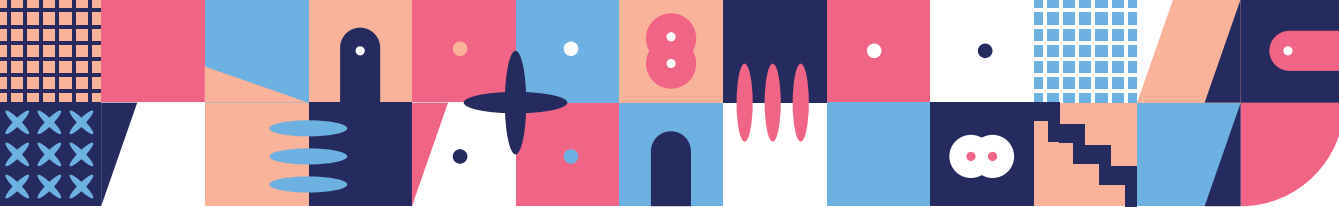


**Branislava Popović-Čitić** PhD in Special Education sciences, is a full professor at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation and president of the Managing Board and founder of CEPORA - Center for Positive Youth Development, a civil society organization from Belgrade. She has expertise in the field of preventive science, with over 300 published scientific and professional papers. She is active in the scientific-research community, as well as in the field of prevention practice, with experience in managing over 140 scientific-research and professional-application projects, with a strong focus on fostering positive youth development. She is a member of the Victimology Society of Serbia and the Pedagogical Society of Serbia, a member of the expert base of the Organization for European Security and Cooperation, the Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia and the Regional Resource Center for Child Protection for Southeast Europe.



**Lidija Bukvić** is a teaching assistant at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, in the scientific area of Theoretical and methodological approaches in the prevention and treatment of behavioral disorders and the executive director of CEPORA - Center for Positive Youth Development, a CSO from Belgrade, Serbia. She has years of practical experience in supporting positive youth development of youth from diverse social groups through interactive methodologies, as well as in training other practitioners in the field of education, social welfare and youth work. She's an author of over 100 scientific and professional publications, with her field of research interest primarily being prevention of behavioral problems, positive youth development, protective and risk factors. She has working experience in the social welfare sector as a family outreach worker. She is a member of the expert base of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

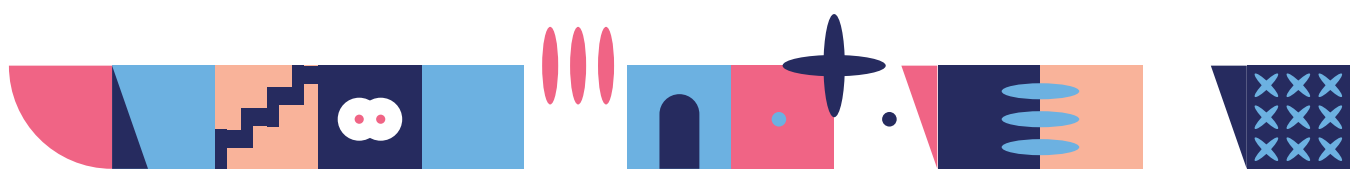




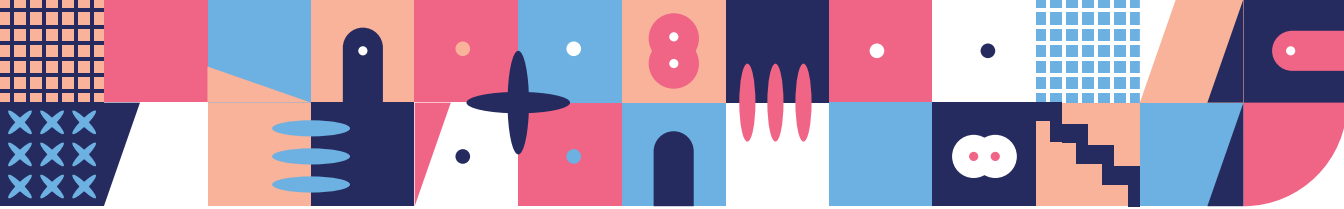
**Milica Kovačević** is a law expert. She gained experience in the judiciary and public administration. She received her doctorate at the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade in 2013, on a topic in the field of juvenile delinquency. She is an associate professor at the Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation of the University of Belgrade, Department for the Prevention and Treatment of Behavioral Disorders, where she teaches the following courses: International Standards in the Field of Responding to Juvenile Crime, Criminal Law, Juvenile Criminal Law and Juvenile Delinquency and Legal Reaction. Milica has been collaborating with the Center for Positive Development of Children and Youth (CEPORA) and participated in the design and implementation of several projects, among which: Diversity Revolution - From Values to Practice (on fostering diversity, especially in the educational context) and Improvement of the support system for young people without parental care. She has published a large number of scientific articles, as well as two scientific monographs: Delinquency and Legal Reaction, Belgrade: Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, 2018 and Introduction to Juvenile Criminal Law, Belgrade: Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, 2021. Her key areas of interest include: children's rights, human and minority rights, hate crimes, education and anti-discrimination practices. She has organized and conducted a number of surveys in the field of legal sciences.



**Jelena Tanasijević** is a doctor of political science in the field of social policy and social work. She is currently employed as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, at the Department of Social Work. In addition to her academic career, she worked for many years in institutions and organizations in the field of social protection in the field of protection of children without parental care, children and youth with behavioral challenges, support for families at risk. She is the author of several scientific articles, manuals for practitioners, work and education programs in the field of social protection. She was engaged in projects dealing with the improvement of mental health of children and young people, support in the process of overcoming traumatic experiences, advocacy of children's rights. She has carried out several researches and analyzes concerning the position of young people. She worked as a UNICEF expert on the development program of the Center for Support of Children, Youth and Families within the process of deinstitutionalization of institutions for housing children and youth without parental care.







## Submission Information

Submission types: paper symposium, individual paper and poster presentation.

**The paper symposium** is a group of presentations focused on a common theme that are submitted together (4-5 research papers). The symposium should be organized around a central topic, with an emphasis on shared issues and the integration of diverse findings.

**Individual paper presentations** will be grouped thematically into a Thematic Symposium.

**Poster presentations** refer to an individual visual presentation displayed in the free-standing mode.

Reviews of related current projects or planned proposals are also cordially invited.

### Submission Guidelines

Title: Please provide a title up to 150 characters, including spaces and punctuation.

Abstract: The abstract should not exceed 250 words.

Provide the ORCID identifiers for all authors, if available.

Please send your submissions to: [pyd2pyjconference2025@ips.ac.rs](mailto:pyd2pyjconference2025@ips.ac.rs)

**Submission deadline:** October 1st, 2025

**Conference format:** Hybrid.

### No Registration Fee

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[pyd2pyjconference2025@ips.ac.rs](mailto:pyd2pyjconference2025@ips.ac.rs)

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference.

Warm regards,

Marina Kovačević Lepojević, Senior Research Associate

Chair of the Program Committee

Simona Kanjevac, Junior Research Assistant

Chair of the Organising Committee

