



Psychosocial Innovation Network

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

BELGRADE, SERBIA  
MAY 2026

# OUR WORK

PIN is a non-profit, nonpartisan, and non-governmental organization whose mission is to improve the promotion and protection of mental health and realize the right to mental health of all Serbian citizens.

With a team of 11 members, most of whom are psychologists, psychotherapists in education or under supervision, and academic researchers, PIN promotes psychological science and a biopsychosocial, empirically based model of community mental health care, underlining a human rights-based approach to mental health.

PIN advocates for an active role for citizens, service users, experts, service providers, and decision-makers in creating comprehensive, sustainable support for mental health and in improving broader social circumstances and living conditions.

We organise our main program lines in the domains of:

**Applied research:** we aim to better understand mental health needs, lived experiences, risks, and protective factors, and to create data-driven, innovative practices and policies.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services:** our team provides comprehensive mental health support, including individual and group counselling and psychotherapy, psychosocial support, crisis interventions, and specialised treatments.

**Public advocacy:** information from research and practice drives evidence-based advocacy activities aimed at improving mental health and human rights protection in policies and practices at the local, regional, and international levels.

**Expert and consulting services:** we organise educational training, workshops, and events for the general public, expert communities, and decision-makers on topics in our field, and implement organisational development and support programs and services for stakeholders across the private and nonprofit sectors.

# 2025 IN NUMBERS

**5**

municipalities  
across Serbia  
where we carried  
out our activities

**8**

grant-funded  
projects

**9**

commissioned  
projects

**776**

individuals  
supported

**2**

team members  
appointed to academic  
and teaching positions  
at the Faculty of  
Philosophy, University  
of Belgrade

**833 818**

unique accounts  
reached across



# YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

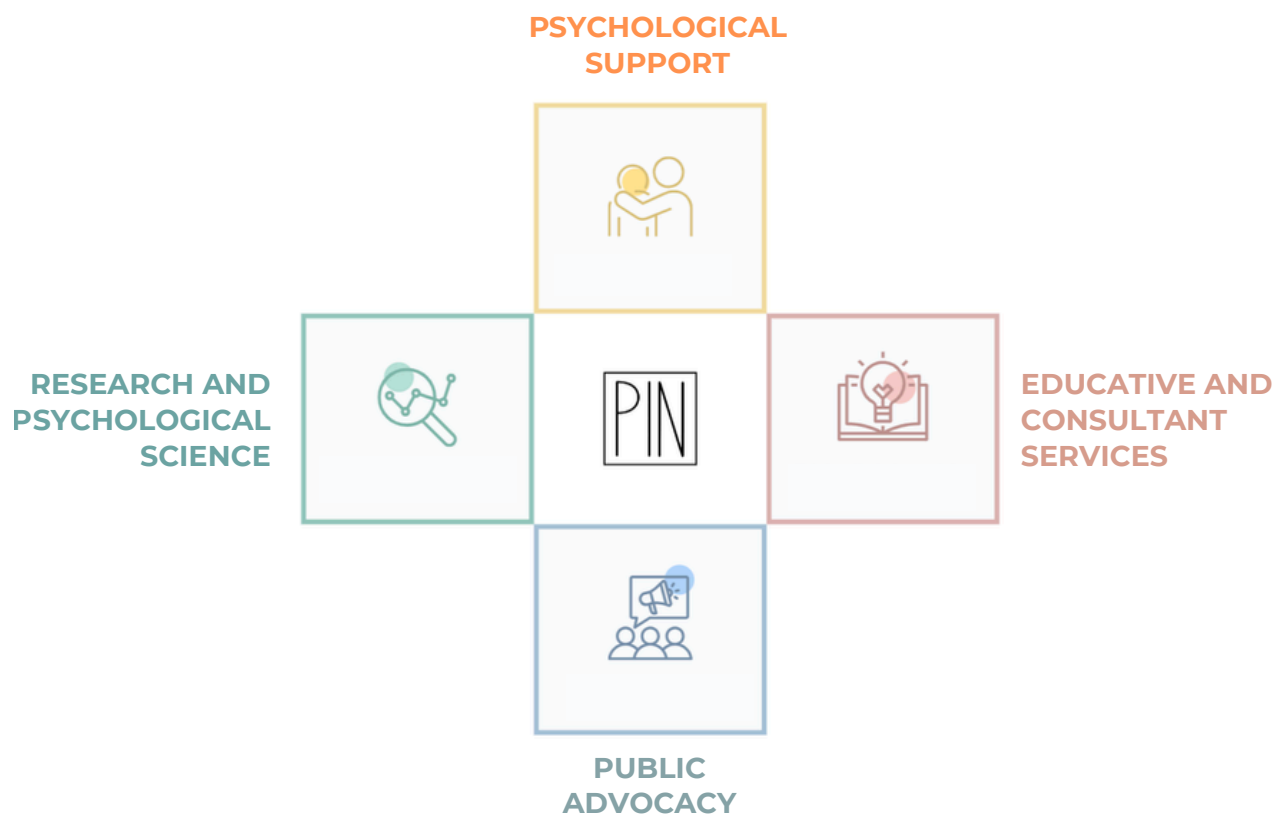
Our operating environment in 2025 was shaped by the aftermath of the tragic canopy collapse in Novi Sad, which resulted in the loss of sixteen lives. This event catalysed sustained student blockades and mass protests that extended throughout the year, significantly influencing the academic, political, and institutional landscape in which PIN operates. While the tragedy and subsequent institutional responses deepened public distrust and heightened concerns about safety, accountability, and governance, the movement led by students and supported by citizens across Serbia also marked a powerful resurgence of solidarity and civic engagement.

At the same time, this period was characterised by increasing social tensions, political pressures, and repression, all of which have direct implications for mental health and psychosocial well-being. **Much of our work in 2025 across all sectors was shaped by emerging societal needs; from researching the effects of police violence and assessing exposure to a sonic weapon for proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights, to providing psychological support to students, activists, and support organisations.**

- **Civic space and the civil society sector.** The past year significantly reshaped the functioning of civil society. On one hand, the protests opened space for stronger civic mobilisation, solidarity, and collective action. However, increasing pressures, scrutiny, and constraints placed on civil society actors created a more uncertain and, at times, restrictive environment for work. We, as many others, were required to navigate rapidly changing conditions, balance advocacy with service provision, and respond to emerging community needs in real time.
- **Cooperation with government institutions.** The broader political context also affected collaboration with state institutions. In February, together with 27 civil society organisations, we decided to suspend cooperation with Serbia's legislative and executive authorities in support of student demands and ongoing civic protests. This includes withdrawing from all forms of participation in government working groups, councils, and similar mechanisms that involve direct engagement.
- **Impact on academia and professional communities.** Because half of our team members are affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade (3 research assistants, 1 senior scientific associate, 1 teaching assistant), developments in academic spaces directly affect our organisation. The continuous strain and repression of academic freedoms and universities' sovereignty required adapting to a new load of challenges and building protective mechanisms within the academic and university context.

# LOOKING BACK AT 2025, OUR PRIMARY AIM WAS TO SUSTAIN THE WORK FROM PREVIOUS YEARS AND SUPPORT THOSE IN MOST URGENT NEED.

In 2025, PIN continued to build on the organisational development from the previous years and strengthened collaboration across program sectors. Rather than operating in parallel, sectors increasingly functioned as an interconnected system, with most projects reflecting joint engagement and shared ownership across teams. At the same time, we actively developed new lines of work, particularly in organisational support, consulting services, and psychotherapy.



## SO, WERE WE SUCCESSFUL?





## IN 2025, WE DIVED DEEP INTO DATA



### HIGHLIGHTED INSIGHTS

- Mental health is significantly shaped by a range of social determinants, including municipal economic development and the availability of social support.
- Those in need of psychosocial support for employee burnout emphasise a strong need to discuss work-life imbalance and other work-related and personal challenges.
- Individuals exposed to the alleged use of a sonic weapon/device during the commemorative gathering in Belgrade on March 15th demonstrated elevated psychological vulnerability and distress.

In **2026**, we continue what we started, learning and exploring...

1. Effectiveness of community-based psychosocial support programs
2. Systematisation and operationalisation of community-based mental health care standards
3. Alignment of local practices and policies with community-based mental health care standards
4. Consensus among mental health experts on community-based mental health care
5. Experiences of ageing
6. Mental health within the context of rare diseases
7. Effects of police brutality during student and citizen protests
8. Work-related stress
9. Resilience
10. and much more to come...

### HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT



In 2025, we wrapped up, together with UNICEF Innocenti, the project “**Disrupting Harm**” implementation, where our role was to conduct research aimed at gathering crucial insights into online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Serbia and Montenegro. Reports and results will be published soon.

# YOU MIGHT'VE HEARD OR READ ABOUT OUR RESEARCH IN...



Research

## SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Džamonja Ignjatovic, T., Petrović, D. S., Kosić, A., **Dimoski, J.**, & Knežević, G. (2025). Conflict Management Strategies: The Role of Personality and Specific Social Relation Beliefs in Serbia and Italy. *Psihološka istraživanja*, 28(1), 31-56.  
<https://doi.org/10.5937/psistra28-54489>
- **Vukčević Marković, M.**, Živanović, M., **Dimoski, J.**, & Gvozden, M. (2025). Social determinants of mental health: The role of proximal and distal factors. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 00207640251347675.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00207640251347675>
- **Vukčević Marković, M.**, **Šapić, D.**, **Dimoski, J.**, & Ajduković, D. (2025). Posttraumatic Growth Among Refugees in Transit Context. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.
- **Dimoski, J.**, **Vukčević Marković, M.**, **Stojadinović, I.**, Milić, A., & Ajduković, D. (2025). Conceptualisation of hope among adolescents and youth from refugee backgrounds in a transit context. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 171, 108171.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2025.108171>

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS ON SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

- **Šapić, D.**, **Dimoski, J.**, Stanković, B., **Vukčević Marković, M.** (2025, May 8-10). *Understanding the needs and perceived importance of mental health support for refugees in the Western Balkans route* [Oral presentation]. 27th Bujas Psychology Days, Zagreb, Croatia.
- Džamonja Ignjatović, T., Petrović, D., Kosić, A., & **Dimoski, J.** (2025, July 01-04). Personality Traits and Social Competencies as Predictors of Conflict Strategies among Youths in Serbia [Oral presentation]. 19th European Congress of Psychology, Paphos, Cyprus.
- Džamonja Ignjatović, T., Petrović, S. D., **Dimoski, J.**, & Kosić, A. (2025, March 28-30). *Parenting styles and social competencies in prediction of conflict management strategies of youths in Serbia* [Oral presentation]. 31st Empirical Studies in Psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- **Dimoski, J.**, **Jašović, J.**, **Stojadinović, I.**, & **Vukčević Marković, M.** (2025, March 28-30). *Testing the Effectiveness of the Psychosocial Support Program for Youth* [Oral presentation]. 31st Empirical Studies in Psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- **Vukčević Marković, M.**, Živanović, M., **Dimoski, J.**, & Gvozden, M. (2025, March 28-30). *Social determinants of mental health: the role of immediate environment and broader societal factors* [Oral presentation]. 31st Empirical Studies in Psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.

...OR AT ANY OTHER  
EVENT WHERE WE  
SHARED OUR  
FINDINGS.

# WHERE RESEARCH MEETS PRACTICE

This year marked a decade of PIN's work in both researching the mental health of refugees and migrants in Serbia and providing psychosocial and psychological support to these communities.

Ten years of research on the mental health of refugees and migrants in Serbia - in **one publication!**



## SOME OF OUR FINDINGS

- Across the assessed years, approximately **90%** of refugees demonstrated **psychological vulnerability**.
- Alongside heightened vulnerability, refugees also showed **preserved positive psychological capacities**, including resilience, hope, well-being, and post-traumatic growth.
- **Global social and political hardships were reflected in increased psychological vulnerability among refugees** during specific periods, such as during border closures and the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Traumatic experiences are unfortunately highly prevalent** among refugee populations, both in their countries of origin and along transit routes.
- There is **a strong need to improve the availability and continuity of psychosocial support** throughout the transit route.
- **Service providers** working with refugees are themselves **at increased risk of mental health difficulties**, including burnout and secondary traumatisation





# Psychological support

## IN 2025, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED WAS ONE OF OUR CORE ACTIVITIES



**583** persons were provided with psychological support\*

### In 2025, PIN provided support to:

- persons experiencing mental health difficulties
- refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers of all ages
- people at risk of homelessness
- psychiatric care users
- children without parental care
- children and youth in local communities
- parents of children with disabilities

**331** hours of individual support sessions

**155** group counseling sessions

**125** psychoeducational activities

**68** peer-to-peer activities

activities in total

**727**

Our psychological support spanned across:

- individual psychological support
- group psychological support
- psychotherapy and counseling
- crisis interventions
- accompanying our clients to psychiatric examinations
- psychoeducational and psychosocial activities
- peer-to-peer activities
- *and so on...*



### **MENTAL HEALTH FOR ALL**

**8** support group cycles

**115** persons supported

With the support of the Association of Serbian Banks, we implemented the project “Mental Health for All,” aimed at strengthening mental health support in Serbia through the provision of free, community-based mental health services, in **Belgrade** and **Ruma**, together with local partners and service providers



\*Number includes individual persons of all ages who were provided direct psychosocial and/or psychological support. Here are not included indirect target groups (e.g. online campaigns for the public) or persons who took part in professional training, organisational support, public events, expert events, or similar events organised by the PIN team.



## CONFLICTS AND INSTABILITY AFFECT CHILDREN THE MOST

Children and youth suffer exceedingly from prolonged conflicts, instability and polarisation. In 2025, they remained the group we worked with most, both among refugee and marginalised populations and in the general population.



# 229

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO WERE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED

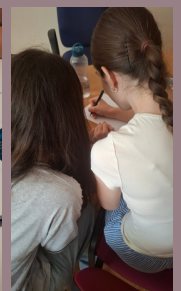
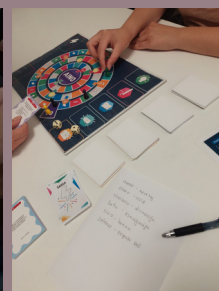
# 64

psychoeducational and peer-to-peer activities with children and youth from **local** population

As part of the project “Mental health for all” supported by the Association of Banks of Serbia, we implemented numerous **workshops and support groups for young people.**



In coordination and with support from Stichting Kinderperspectief we worked on developing and piloting their **AINO game on the topic of mental health.** Stay tuned for more!



### refugees and migrants

When it comes to children and youth from refugee and migrant populations, during 2025, we most often worked with those from **Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Burundi, Armenia, Russia, and Ukraine,** supplying direct psychological and psychosocial support.

#### Standardne operative procedure (SOP)

za upućivanje dece i mladih izbeglica, tražilaca azila i migranata na usluge zaštite mentalnog zdravlja u Republici Srbiji

2025



[Click to read more!](#)



#### Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Referral of Refugee, Asylum-Seeking, and Migrant Children and Youth to Mental Health Services in Serbia, developed in collaboration with UNICEF Serbia.

for Referral of Refugee, Asylum-Seeking, and Migrant Children and Youth to Mental Health Services in Serbia, developed in collaboration with UNICEF Serbia.



# DURING 2025, WE WORKED TO EMPOWER AND SUPPORT EXPERTS, PROFESSIONALS, ORGANISATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND COMPANIES

 **193** individuals took part in our capacity building activities

**17** team supervision and support groups

**9** trainings and workshops

**6** organizations supported through organizational development consulting

## CIVIL SOCIETY & NONPROFITS

- capacity-building trainings and workshops and educational programs
- supervision and professional support
- programs for staff wellbeing and mental health
- support for professionals working with vulnerable groups
- group and individual support initiatives

## COMPANIES & PRIVATE SECTOR

- workplace wellbeing and mental health programs
- organisational assessment and development
- supervision and coaching for professionals
- training on psychosocial risks and employee well-being
- group and individual support programs
- raising awareness on mental health

## IN 2025, WE PARTNERED WITH...

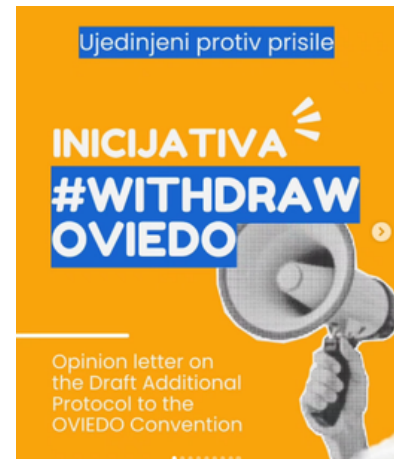




# WE FOCUSED ON PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

## WORKING WITH INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS

- As a member of the Platform of Organisations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, we contributed to the country **report submitted to Volker Türk**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- In coordination with Mental Health Europe, we actively contributed to the **#WithdrawOviedo campaign**, advocating to Serbian representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to raise concerns about the potential human rights implications of the Draft protocol to the Oviedo Convention, particularly in relation to coercion and the protection of autonomy and informed consent.
- Following the (alleged) use of a sonic crowd control device during a protest on March 15, 2025, we **supported legal proceedings before the European Court of Human Rights** by conducting assessments and reporting on the psychological and psychosocial effects experienced by individuals who submitted complaints.



## LEGISLATIVE AND INITIATIVES

- As part of the Movement for Mental Health initiative, we have compiled a **2024 report on the realisation of the right to mental health in Serbia**, analysing the implementation of the Program on Mental Health Protection in Serbia (2019-2026).
- As part of the Movement for Mental Health initiative, we launched an **advocacy process calling for a new Strategy for Mental Health**, including a public petition and consultations with civil society organisations, service providers, and experts.
- We participated in public **consultations on the Law on the Protection of Persons with Mental Health Issues**, contributing general recommendations to strengthen a rights-based and community-oriented approach to mental health care.





# WE FOCUSED ON PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

## RAISING AWARENESS, BUILDING CAPACITIES

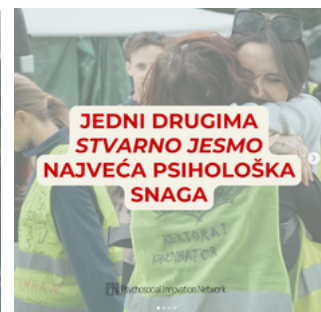


- We translated and disseminated the **glossary developed by Mental Health Europe**, improving accessibility and fostering a shared understanding of key mental health concepts in the local context.



- We participated in **European Mental Health Week**, joining the Mental Health Europe campaign to promote the importance of social equity in advancing and protecting mental health.
- In collaboration with Mental Health Europe, we organised an open **capacity-building event “Expanding the Space for Mental Health in Conditions of Narrowing Civic and Democratic Space”** in Belgrade, bringing together students, civil society organisations, institutions, grassroots initiatives, and user-led organisations.

**We shared social media content and resources on the mental health impacts of ongoing social polarisation and institutional violence.**





# WE STRIVED TO REACH WIDER COMMUNITY

Our team members had the chance to participate in events and initiatives organised by our partners, colleagues, and community members.



## 19 GUESTS LECTURES AND PANEL TALKS

From Petnica psychology (Jana Dimoski) seminar to Resilient's "Change the record" conference (Draga Šapić), we discussed topics ranging from psychological research to mental health at work.



You can even watch some of the events in full on YouTube - here are two talks in which our Sara Dojčinović participated during 2025.



## 11 MEDIA GUEST APPEARANCES

take a look at some of the topics we covered in 2025...



ALJAZEERA BALKANS

Alarming data: Every third person in Serbia has serious mental health problems, AlJazeera Balkans, Maša Vukčević Marković

Interpreters at war crimes trials and accumulated trauma, BBC News, Irena Stojadinović Vujičić

BBC NEWS  
NA SRPSKOM

How to explain complex social issues, protests and strikes to children?, The World for Us, Sara Dojčinović



Together we are stronger: support, knowledge and companionship for refugees in Serbia, UNICEF Serbia, Isidora Živić, Jelena Jašović

We teach children responsibility on the Internet through agreement, instead of conditioning and prohibitions, The World for Us, Sara Dojčinović



How to "survive" an emotional rollercoaster?, Hemofarm Foundation, Sara Dojčinović



Self-care in times of crisis and uncertainty, Hemofarm Foundation, Maša Vukčević Marković

# A LOOK BACK AT OUR ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH DAYS

For the fourth year in a row, we organized PIN Days of Mental Health, under the slogan **Science and profession in the service of citizens**

126

people visited the PIN days events



## Meeting the needs for mental health care in Serbia



A public discussion titled *Care for Mental Health: Much Needed, Rarely Accessible* brought together professionals and the public to discuss access to mental health support.

The event addressed the impact of social crises on well-being, barriers to accessing psychological services, and the role of social conditions in shaping mental health. The discussion was supported by the Association of Serbian Banks.

PIN marked ten years of work dedicated to improving mental health support for refugees. The anniversary event brought together partners and the wider community to reflect on key insights, challenges, and lessons learned, as well as the human experiences that have shaped this work.

The event was held with the support of UNICEF Serbia, PIN's long-standing partner, contributing to continued dialogue on strengthening mental health care for refugee populations.

## Ten years of refugee and migrant mental health care



# Memberships | We are members of...

## Co-founders



## networks highlights



Consortium on Refugees' and Migrants' Mental Health (**CoReMH**) is an informal international network of mental health professionals founded by PIN in 2020. During 2025 CoReMH grew bigger for one member - it now has 26 members from 10 countries along the European transit route, who are dedicated to improve mental health practices and policies for refugees in transit. Over the past year, the network held three General Meetings where members shared relevant updates on the migration context in the region, as well as possibilities for collaboration. The annual CoReMH report for 2025 is available at the following [link](#).



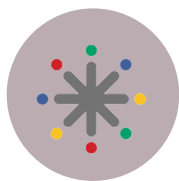
The Mental Health (MH) Movement is an informal network founded in July 2021 by Serbian CSOs, including PIN, working in the area of mental health. The aims of the MH Movement are mental health promotion, improving the availability and accessibility of mental health care in the community, improving the position of people with psychosocial disabilities, combatting stigma, and advocacy. In 2025, the Movement for Mental Health strengthened advocacy and public awareness through campaigns, educational initiatives, and public events, while actively responding to social issues and promoting open dialogue on mental health. It also pushed for systemic change by **publishing key reports** and launching a national petition to improve mental health policy and protection in Serbia.



NCH is a platform uniting civil society organisations working to improve the rights and living conditions of people experiencing homelessness in Serbia. Its mission is to combat discrimination, stigmatization, and exclusion of persons in situations of homelessness and to advocate for systemic solutions. As a member of the Network, PIN contributed to joint advocacy and collaborative activities throughout 2025. Together with other member organisations, we participated in solidarity initiatives marking the International Day for the Eradication of Homelessness in October, contributing to a community event in Belgrade dedicated to dignity, visibility, and support for people experiencing homelessness. During the year, PIN also took part in working groups and joint initiatives of the Network, including advocacy activities and preparation of the annual report on homelessness in Serbia.

# THROUGHOUT 2025, NETWORKS WERE PLACES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SHARING

networks highlights



This year, the **Platform of Organisations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms** focused on information-sharing and mobilisation through written statements on questionable institutional practices seen during 2025.

PIN participated in the annual **Mental Health Europe** conference and took part in decision-making during the assembly held in Brussels in June. Throughout the year, we were also part of working groups for both the strategic plan and membership strategy.



As full members of **National Youth Council - KOMS**, we attended quarterly meetings, participated in consultation processes, and supported the network as needed. During the annual general assembly held online in November, our Sara Dojčinović was elected to the governing board of KOMS.

As a part of the Network of organisations for children, we took part in the annual assembly in Belgrade in June.



A key highlight in 2025 was the development of the **Report on Homelessness in Serbia 2024/25**, co-authored by PIN and other members of the Network, which analyses the key policy framework and challenges related to discrimination and access to social and economic rights for people experiencing homelessness.



Together with members of Mental Health Movement, we organised **the fifth Belgrade Festival of Mental Health** under the slogan "System is broken, the people are not". This year, across three events, we highlighted how citizens together, through collective action and art, can push towards progress of mental health care even when the system is failing to do so.



# SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE MOST **APPRECIATIVE** OF IN 2025...

## OUR COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTERS

**6** EXTERNAL ASSOCIATES

We could not have done it without Biljana, Sanja, Kristina, Marija, Mina, and Marijana

**17** VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS, STUDENT COLLABORATORS

Many thanks to wonderful Teodora, Matija, Tijana, Jovana, Milica, Jovana, Elsa, Una, Stefan, Saška, Aleksandra, Tijana, Marina, Lena, Natalija, Sofija, and Sara

### **Our partners, donors, colleagues and friends**

We're grateful to everyone who showed confidence in us over the past year and offered support and solidarity. In 2025, a strong, tight community built on trust, respect, and shared values was more important than ever. Thanks to our partners, donors, colleagues, and friends, we wrapped up a tough year as a stronger, more resilient collective, and we can only hope we did the same for others.

### **SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE**

Our Maša Vukčević Marković was recognised by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovations as one of **the top 10% of scientifically excellent researchers** in Serbia for the second year in a row

### **AWARD FOR MASTER THESISES**

Our Sara Dojčinović (*supervised by Prof. dr Iris Žeželj*) and Jelena Jašović (*supervised by Dr Maša Vukčević Marković and Prof. dr Biljana Stanković*) shared the **Josip Berger award** for the best master's thesis on the practical work of psychologists, awarded by the Serbian Psychological Society.

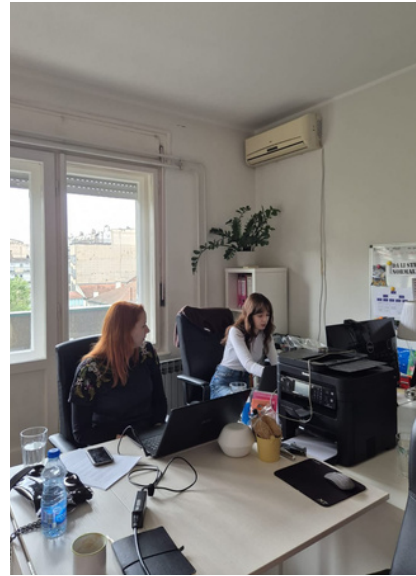


**THANK YOU** FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

# SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE MOST **APPRECIATIVE** OF IN 2025...

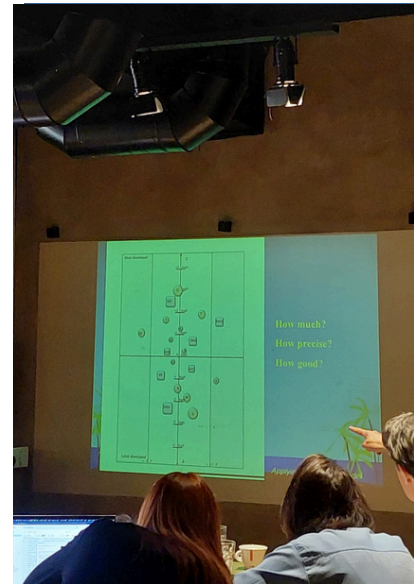
## Being able to adapt our work to ever-changing conditions

We've maintained a flexible **32-hour workweek**. Despite the ups and downs of implementing this progressive work model, we were successful overall and will continue using it in 2026. We also adapted our work to be able to join ongoing calls for **collective action**, such as general strikes and protests, which remain central to our organisational values.



## Building our own capacities

This year, our team underwent a variety of training to develop our skills and knowledge. In addition to Zoom meeting rooms, our team had the opportunity to learn in person at training sessions organised across Serbia, covering topics ranging from novel research methodologies to public advocacy skills, as well as strategic planning implemented by colleagues from Croatia.



From year to year, we are always most thankful for each others and all of the support and strenght we find within our team, through all the hard times!



# 3652 DAYS OF PIN

You've read it right - in 2025,  
PIN celebrated 10 years of work!

**76** projects  
implemented

**57** scientific articles  
& research reports

**12000+** persons  
supported

For this occasion, we prepared a  
publication summarising the first 10 years  
of PIN, highlighting some of the  
accomplishments we are most proud of.

 [Click to  
read more!](#)



We marked our birthday with both a small team celebration and a cocktail-and-party at Kvaka22 with our dear friends, partners, donors, collaborators, associates, former employees, and volunteers, our wider community, and all who were with us over the years of our work.



Because PIN is a nonprofit organization, our work is made possible by projects, donations, and support from individuals, organizations, and businesses alike. Lack of sustainable support is something all struggle with, which is why a part of our work is done voluntarily.

IF YOU WANT TO SUPPORT OUR  
CAUSE AND WORK, AS WELL AS  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF MENTAL  
HEALTH FOR ALL...

**...REACH OUT TO US.**



*You can reach out to us to find out more about how you can support PIN's work via contact details on the next page.*



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Linktree\*

