YOUTH in ROUTE

Routes for fostering sense of initiative and active citizenship among disaffiliated youth

Train the trainers – Level 1 – BAO-Jeunesse Citizen Academy

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Level 1 focuses on theoretical contextualisation.

The Youth in Route project aims to strengthen the initiative, civic engagement and future prospects of young people at risk of dropping out of school and society in Belgium, France, Portugal and Serbia.

Inspired by the work of sociologist Robert Castel on disaffiliation, this project is based on **an in-depth understanding of the mechanisms that lead** to young people **dropping out** and becoming isolated.

This training course offers supervisors the opportunity to **engage** with Robert Castel's **key concepts in a theoretical and participatory manner**, enabling them to better analyse the situations encountered in the field and adapt their support practices.

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Exclusion or disaffiliation ?

Level 1 – Session 1

Agreeing on a common definition of disaffiliation

SESSION 1

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Learning outcomes

By the end of this module, participants will be able to :

- Knowledge:

Define personally and collectively the concept of disaffiliation

- Skills:

Distinguish between exclusion and disaffiliation

- Attitudes:

Be aware to the need to change our perspectives about disaffiliation in order to be able to act



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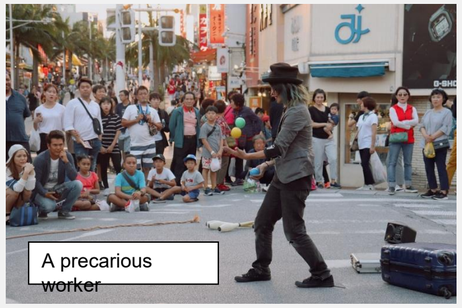
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Emergence fresco: who is excluded?

Rank the characters from most excluded to least excluded

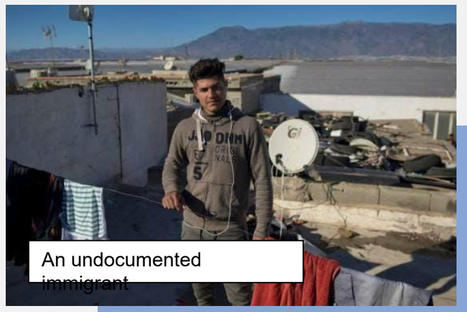








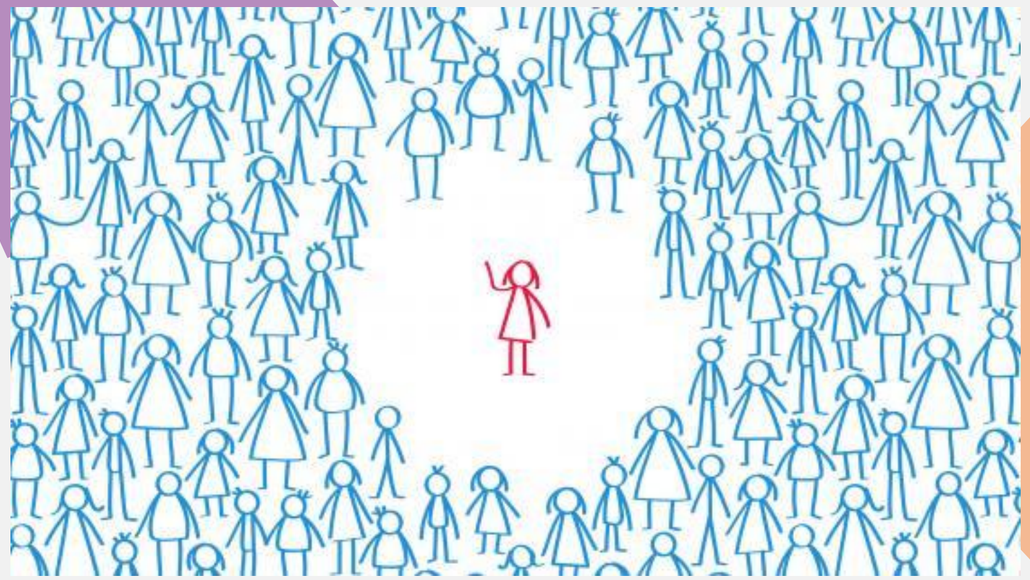




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Key concept: Exclusion

Exclusion is the act of excluding a person or group from a set, a place or an organization; a binary term which concretely translates into a rejection or a dismissal generally associated with a loss of rights.



An excluded young person is, for example, someone who has left school without a diploma, does not have a stable job, lives in very precarious housing or in a hostel, no longer participates in neighborhood or community activities, no longer feels welcome in institutions (school, local missions, etc.) and internalizes the idea that he “no longer has a place” in society.

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Key concept: Disaffiliation



Disaffiliation is a shift from a form of societal integration to the "shadow zone" of society, characterized by precariousness and social invisibility; a kind of progressive marginalization from the societal norm.

A young person may still be enrolled in school but already disengaged: they attend less and less, drop out of class, lose contact with supportive peers, no longer have trusted adults at school, alternate between precarious odd jobs and periods of inactivity, and withdraw into themselves or a small, marginalized group. While they haven't yet reached "total" exclusion, their ties to the world of work, institutions, and stable social relationships are gradually disintegrating.

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Interactive question

1. Why is it so important to distinguish between exclusion and disaffiliation?

→ take into account their background, allow for change or evolution, do not reduce them to their sole status as "disaffiliated," prevent them from becoming "lost talents" for society



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interactive question

2. What is the benefit for the young people in making this distinction ?

→ because the action of “reaffiliation” must be collective and unite youth workers and political leaders in a common objective.



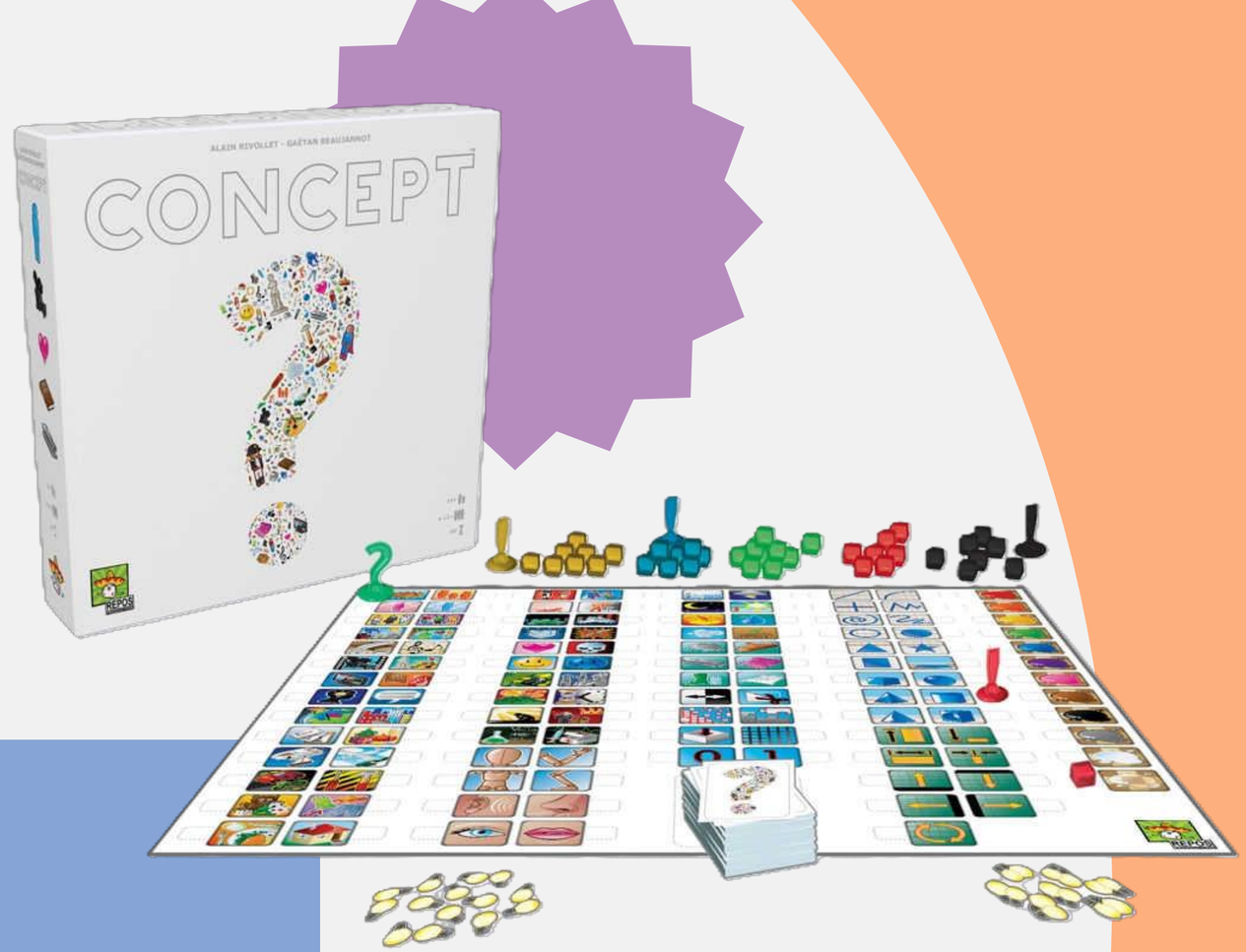
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A field tool : the clockwise circles

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Group summary : the Concept game



Methodology: developing a summary through collective intelligence

Objective: to agree on a common definition

Instructions: Using 4 crystals, define the disaffiliation together.

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Assessment quiz : true or false ?

1. “Exclusion occurs when a young person is already significantly marginalized from society (school, employment, activities, institutions, etc.).”

→ Answer: **True**

Comment: Social exclusion refers to significant marginalization that affects access to rights, services, and participation in social life.

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Assessment quiz : true or false ?

2. “Disaffiliation describes a gradual shift: the young person is still ‘in it,’ but is gradually distancing themselves from school, work, or the adults in their lives.”

→ Answer: **True**

Comment: For Castel, disaffiliation refers to a process of weakening and gradual breakdown of social and professional ties, without immediate total exclusion.

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Assessment quiz : true or false ?

3. “Repeated absences from school, declining grades, and increasing isolation can be signs of disengagement in a young person.”

→ Answer: **True**

Comment: These are classic indicators of dropping out of school/disengagement: a gradual decline, not necessarily ruled out yet, but a setback.

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Assessment quiz : true or false ?

4. “A young person permanently excluded from school has no connection to the issue of social exclusion.”

→ Answer: **False**

Comment: Severe school exclusion can be part of a broader process of social exclusion (loss of rights, connections, and opportunities), even if it is not the only cause.

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Assessment quiz : true or false ?

5. “Early detection of disaffiliation often allows for action before exclusion takes hold.”

→ Answer: **True**

Comment: Disaffiliation is a process of progressive weakening of social and professional ties, making it a key moment for prevention before the more radical rupture of exclusion.

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