YOUTH in ROUTE

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

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

Co-funded by the European Union 2024-2-BE04-KA220-YOU-00276965

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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Appropriation of the concept

Level 1 – Session 4

To ground the theory in the participant’s professional realities.



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Learning outcomes

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

- **Skills**:

Use a support framework

Define the values of the project

- **Attitudes**:

Take account of the unique circumstances of each individual rather than applying the same analytical model to all young people in difficulty.



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One step forward !



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A field tool :

Let’s try and validate

a support framework…

YOUNG PERSON IN CARE : ……

1. CURRENT SITUATION :
   - INTEGRATION
   - VULNERABILITY
   - ASSISTANCE
   - DISAFFILIATION
2. SUPPORTS IDENTIFIÉS :

PILLAR	PRESENT	FRAGILE	ABSENT
Work / training			
Incomes			
Housing			
Family ties			
Social ties			
Institutional monitoring			
Hobbies			
…… (Mobility ?)			
…… (Digital access ?)			
……			

3. KEY RISKS OR FRAGILITIES IDENTIFIED:

……

……

……

4. PROPOSED ACTIONS :

WHAT ?	BY WHOM ?	PILLAR ?	DEAD LINE ?	EXPECTED RESULT

5. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: ……

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Conclusion

1. Disaffiliation is not inevitable. It is a reversible process.

2. Supporting young people means focusing on both pillars (work/training and relationships/social connections) at the same time, without ignoring other aspects such as health or mobility.

3. Identifying the vulnerable area means being able to take action before a complete breakdown occurs

4. The Youth in Route project is fully aligned with the aim of preventing social disaffiliation and promoting reintegration: training professionals, building connections, and giving young people a chance to speak out

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The €5 note

A metaphor about values



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Cooperation

Work

Dignity

Solidarity

Responsability

Humour

Culture

Democracy

Gratitude

Trust

Respect

Security

Freedom

Equity

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5. What are the values at stake ?

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Key concept : inclusion

Definition: In a process aimed at reintegrating young people, inclusion refers to organising the environment (institution, service, peer group, neighbourhood, etc.) in such a way that every young person, regardless of their history of exclusion or disaffiliation, can truly belong, participate and exercise their rights, rather than having to ‘fit into the mould’ of the existing system.

Practical explanation: Inclusion affirms every person’s right to access mainstream institutions and to participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life, regardless of their individual circumstances. Inclusion does not mean ‘accepting the young person as they are’ by asking them to adapt, but also adapting the environment, standards and practices to meet their specific needs. In the youth sector, inclusion involves removing the barriers to participation faced by young people who were initially excluded (poverty, disability, background, mental health, justice, migration, etc.).

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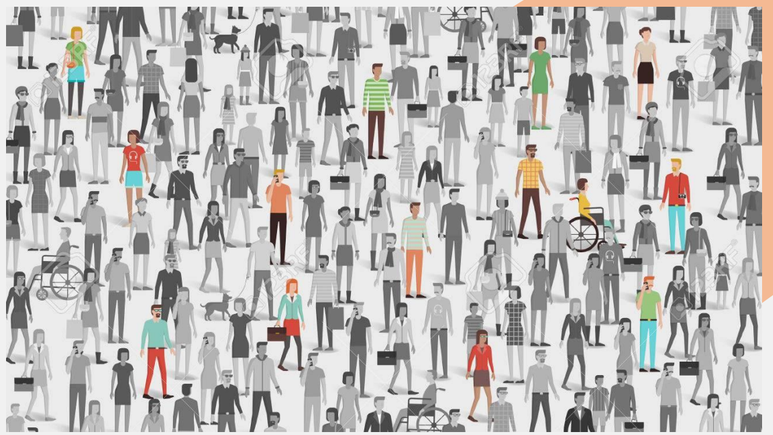
Key concept : value

Définition :
A value is a strong idea that guides our choices.
In youth work, values are what help us decide ‘how we do things’ with young people, especially when there is no obvious technical answer. In other words: a value is something that matters so much to you or your team that it influences how you interact with the young person and the decisions you make.

For young people who feel ‘out of place’, rejected by institutions or shunted from service to service, the challenge of values is to show them, through actions, that they have value as people (and not just as ‘cases’ or ‘problems’). To enable them to experience values other than those they sometimes endure (contempt, mistrust, suspicion): trust being placed in them, a second chance, recognition of their skills, and the possibility of making mistakes without being excluded.

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interactive question

1. Why is it essential to keep individual pathways flexible rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach to all young people in difficulty?

→ The risk of homogenising ‘disaffiliated young people’.
Analyses inspired by Castel warn against an overly broad use of the category of ‘disaffiliated young people’, which lumps together very diverse situations (school dropouts, exile, disability, poverty, family conflict, etc.) under a single label.
The danger of a categorisation effect is highlighted: defining ‘the disaffiliated’ as a separate group may strengthen the stigma and the idea that ‘there is nothing more that can be done for them’, something Castel had already criticised in relation to the term ‘the excluded’.

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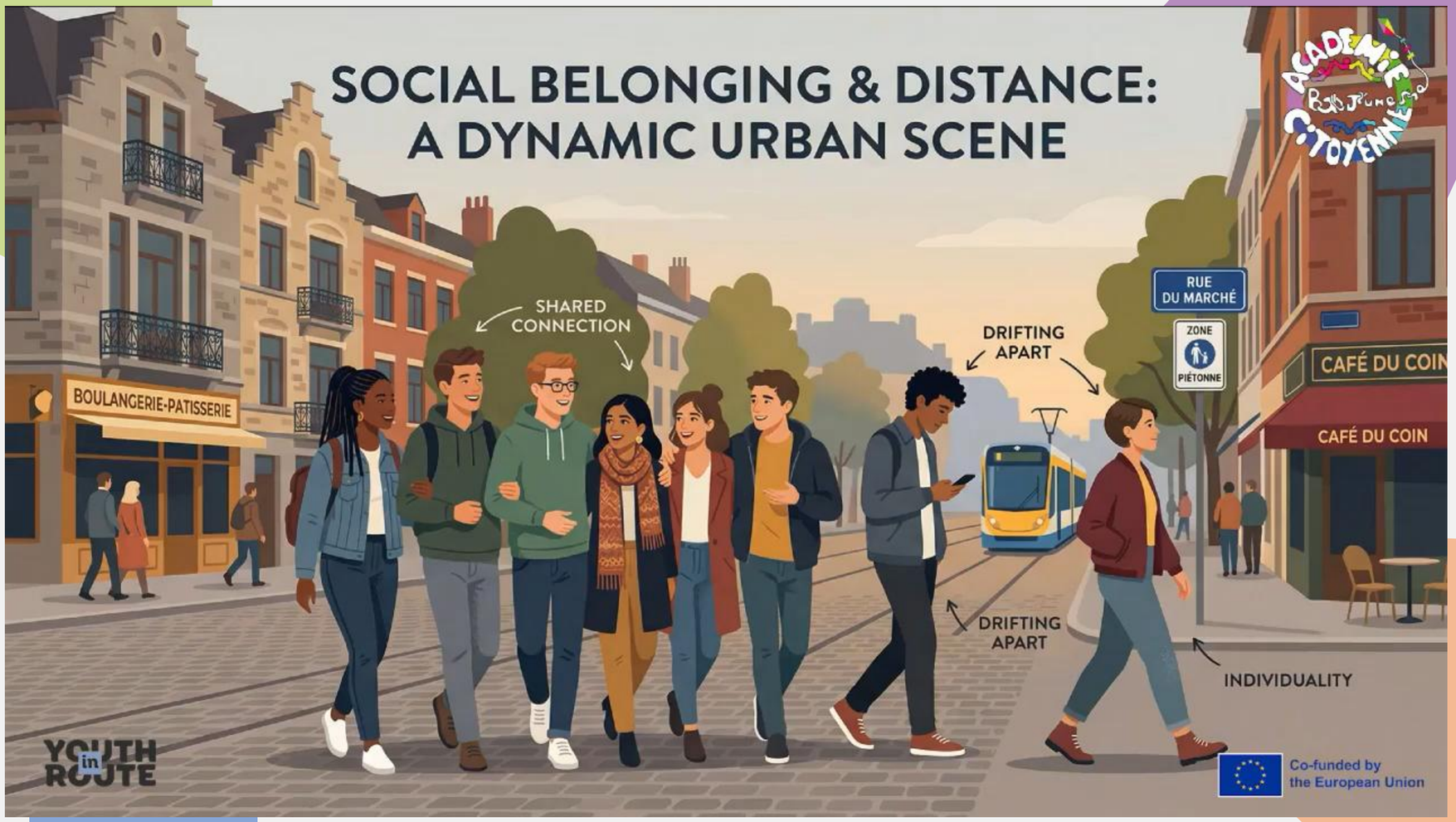
interactive question

Why is it important to talk to young people about values ?

→ It’s essential for self-esteem: knowing your values so you don’t lose your worth !

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