



Psychosocial Innovation Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



BELGRADE, MARCH 2025

About PIN

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 12 members, most being psychologists, psychotherapists under supervision, and researchers, PIN advocates for a biopsychosocial and empirically based model of community mental health. This model implies an active role of citizens, service users, experts, and decision-makers in creating comprehensive and sustainable support for mental health and improving wider social circumstances which would have a beneficial effect on the mental health of citizens.

Our work comprises of:

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

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services - our team of psychologists provides comprehensive mental health support, spanning individual and group counseling and psychotherapy, psychosocial support, crisis interventions, and specialized treatments.

Public advocacy - information from research and practice drives evidence-based advocacy activities aimed at improving mental health policies and practices on a local, regional, and international level.

Expert and consulting services - our team organizes educational training, workshops, and events for the general public, expert communities, and decision-makers on various topics within our field of expertise.



YEAR IN NUMBERS

11

municipalities across
Serbia where we
carried out our
activities

15

grant-funded
projects

40+

commissions

617

individuals
supported

7

organized
community events

1

new PhD
psychology
candidate in our
team

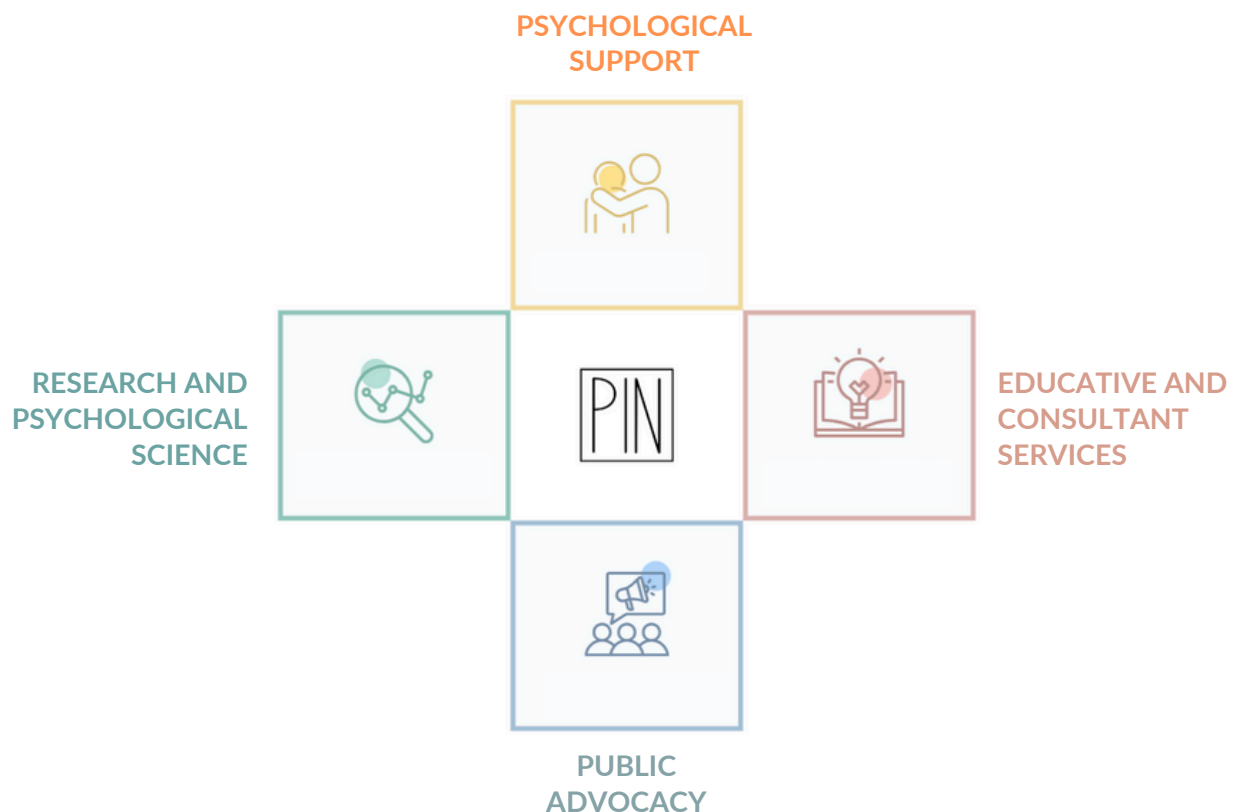
147 567

unique people
reached across



IN 2024 WE'VE CONTINUED TO DEVELOP OUR INTEGRATIVE MODEL OF WORK

Our sectors widened their scope of work during 2024 and strengthened the connection between their work and their mutual interrelation. This means that during 2024, our sectors functioned like cogwheels more than ever. Most of our projects, thus, included team members and engagement from all sectors.



SO, WHAT DID OUR SECTOR TEAMS ACCOMPLISH?





Research

IN 2024, WE WERE CURIOUS AS EVER...

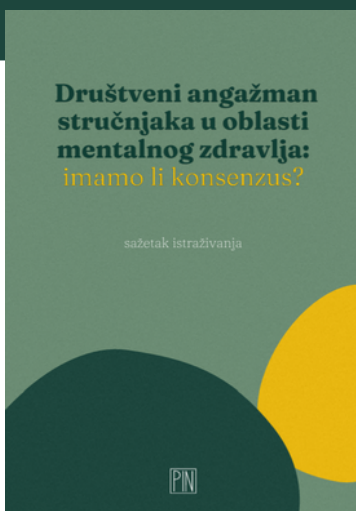


During 2024, the PIN Research Team drifted into some novel topics but also remained faithful to our most crucial research curiosities.

HIGHLIGHTED FINDINGS

- **Youth Mental Health** Even though 40% of youth experience mental health difficulties, slightly more than half of them have never sought psychological support.
- **Community Mental Health** Community MH services markedly figure in facilitating all dimensions relevant to the well-being and quality of life of users of psychiatric services.
- **Civic engagement in Mental Health** There seems to be a high level of consensus among mental health experts that they should be socially engaged.

Civic engagement of experts in the field of mental health



Click to read more!

In 2025 we'll continue what we started...

1. Exploring barriers to implementation of community-based mental health care model
2. Testing the effectiveness of community-based mental health support
3. Refugee mental health research: an overview of the last decade
4. Psychology of aging
5. Psychosocial support in primary health care
6. Mental health and rare diseases
7. Online sexual violence against children
8. ...and much more to come!



FRIEDENSAU
INSTITUTE FOR
EVALUATION

In 2024, we worked with the Friedensau Institute for Evaluation on the **evaluation** of ADRA Serbia's program "Comprehensive Support to Homeless in Belgrade", which included interviewing over 200 persons in the situation of homelessness in Belgrade.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS



In 2024, we partnered with UNICEF Innocenti within their global project "**Disrupting Harm**" to implement research aimed at gathering crucial insights into online child sexual exploitation and abuse in Serbia. Research report to be published in 2025, when we will also participate in the project implementation in Montenegro.



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

Published work

- Stanković, B., Lukić, P., Stojadinović, I., Bogdanović, J., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024). Introducing community-based mental health support in Serbia: A qualitative study on experiences and needs of long-term psychiatric users. *Cambridge Prisms: Global Mental Health*.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/gmh.2024.81>
- Šapić, D., Dimoski, J., Jašović, J., Živić, I., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024). *Ispitivanje potreba i značaja podrške mentalnom zdravlju kod izbeglica u tranzitu: Istraživački izveštaj za 2024. godinu*. Psychosocial Innovation Network
- Dojčinović, S., Dimoski, J., Milenković, I., Arnautović, M., Vukčević Marković, M. (2024). *Mentalno zdravlje mladih u Srbiji*. Psychosocial Innovation Network - PIN.
- Branković, U., Lazić, I., Dojčinović, S., Dimoski, J., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024). *Struka ili aktivizam: društveni angažman stručnjaka u oblasti mentalnog zdravlja*. Psychosocial Innovation Network - PIN
- Stojadinović, I., Dojčinović, S., & Ankić, J. (2024). *Izveštaj za 2023. godinu o ostvarivanju prava na mentalno zdravlje u Srbiji*. Pokret za mentalno zdravlje.

Oral presentations on scientific conferences

- Dimoski, J., Jašović, J., Stojadinović, I., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024, September 26-17). *Testing the Effectiveness of the Psychosocial Support Program for Youth: a One-Group Pretest-Posttest Design* [Oral presentation]. 6. Riječki dani eksperimentalne psihologije, Rijeka, Hrvatska.
- Dimoski, J., Manojlović, M., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024, March 22-24). *Psychosocial support for older adults: a quasi-experimental study on program effectiveness* [Oral presentation]. 30th Empirical studies in psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Gvozden, M., Dimoski, J., Bjelogrić, A., & Vukčević Marković, M. (2024, March 22-24). *Effectiveness of a community-based psychosocial support program: a quasi-experimental study* [Oral presentation]. 30th Empirical studies in psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Vukčević Marković, M., Bjekić, J., & Priebe, S. (2024, March 22-24). *Effectiveness of expressive writing in the reduction of psychological distress during the Covid-19 pandemic: a randomized controlled trial* [Oral presentation]. 30th Empirical studies in psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Stanković, B., Lukić, P., Stojadinović, I. & Bogdanović, J. (2024, March, 22-24). *Evaluation of community-based mental health support to long-term psychiatric users: a qualitative study* [Oral presentation]. 30th Empirical studies in psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.
- Vukčević Marković, M & Dimoski, J. [chairs]. (2024, March 22-24). *Evidence-based mental health interventions*. [Symposium]. 30th Empirical studies in psychology, Belgrade, Serbia.

...OR AT ONE OF THE
MANY OTHER EVENTS
WHERE WE TOOK THE
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
ABOUT OUR FINDINGS.



IN 2024, PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED WAS ONE OF OUR CORE ACTIVITIES

Intending to provide in-depth and continuous support, our services encompassed fewer people during 2024 than the previous year. Still, our team delivered services to individuals and groups in need at over 18 locations in 11 municipalities in Serbia.



322 persons were provided with psychological support*

In 2024, 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

333 hours of individual support sessions

43 group counseling sessions

62 psychoeducational activities

4 psychological assessments for the asylum procedure

457
activities in total

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...

**Number includes individual adult persons (0 - 80+ y.o.) 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, organizational support, public events, expert events, or similar events organized by the PIN team.*



IN 2024, CHILDREN AND YOUTH WERE THE GROUP WE WORKED WITH THE MOST

Children and youth suffer exceedingly from prolonged conflicts and instability. In 2024, they were the vulnerable group we worked with the most.



229

children and youth who were directly supported

77

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

When it comes to children and youth from refugee and migrant populations, during 2024 most often we worked with those from **Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Burundi, Armenia, Russia, and Ukraine.**



[Click to read more!](#)

Mental health of youth in Serbia: research report

In order to build multi-level support for the well-being of youth, we need to understand their needs and position. For that, we need data. This is why we compiled a research report about the different aspects of mental health and youth (18 to 30) well-being in Serbia. You can find the full report [on the link](#).



Instagram (@okrenipricu)

Instagram photos and videos

[Instagram.com](#)

We've also partnered with a group of psychology students from **LIRA lab**, to produce content (such as educational blog texts) about mental health. More about this, you can find on the project Instagram page.

MAJSKA PLATFORMA



DRUŠTVENI
ODGOVOR
NASILJU

As part of the May platform, we participated in the drafting of [a living document](#) aimed at understanding the context in which mass murders of May 2023 took place, from the perspective of children's mental health protection and care.



CHANGES DON'T HAPPEN BY THEMSELVES - WHICH IS WHY IN 2023 WE WERE DEDICATED TO...

WORKING WITH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS

- ...we were invited to participate in a **consultative team** of the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs in the process of formulation of Action plan for improving the mental health of children, adolescents and young people.
- ...we are active members of **The Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms**, through which we are involved in the Universal Periodic Review process.
- ...as part of the annual consultation process, we've participated in **the contribution to the report** on Serbia of the European Commission.
- ...during consultations with Mental Health Europe, we partook in discussion and strategy building for advocacy aimed at EU Commission policy on The protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations.
- ...we participated in meetings, 5 in total, with representatives from embassy delegations in Serbia, to report on mental health problems of different groups in Serbia.

LEGISLATIVE AND INITIATIVES

- ... we advocated for the adoption of a new **Action plan for 2023 for implementing the Programme on Mental Health Protection in Serbia (2019 - 2026)**. Unfortunately, there is still no progress on the part of decision-makers.
- ... as a part of the initiative Movement for Mental Health, we have compiled a report **Fulfillment of the Right to Mental Health in Serbia in 2023** to analyze the realization of the Program on Mental Health Protection in Serbia (2019-2026).
- ...we participated in **6 consultation sessions and meetings**, organized by UN agencies, local CSOs, and government institutions.
- ...as part of the **Initiative for Social Protection**, we participated in regular meetings and the Initiative's advocacy efforts.
- ...as part of the May Platform we participated in advocacy and context analysis of the context in which the mass murders of May 2023 took place
- ...we were invited by the Centre for Peace Studies and organization A11 to join the **informal regional networking initiative for the protection and promotion of economic and social rights** in the countries of the region (Bosna&Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia).

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

- ... wrote numerous **memos, press releases, and letters to decision-makers** on the status of people with mental health problems, people in the situation of homelessness, the wider socioeconomic context of human rights protection, etc.
- ... **presented research data** that shows the necessity of reform and advancement of the mental health system, especially when it comes to children, youth, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.
- ...participated in European Mental Health Week and joined the Mental Health Europe campaign to spread the message of the necessity of **co-creation in mental health** advancement and protection.
- ...**engaged with relevant stakeholders and donors** to relay the urgency of putting the advancing mental health system in Serbia on their agenda.



DURING 2024, WE AIMED TO EMPOWER MENTAL HEALTH COMPETENCIES

We focused on building the mental health competencies of others – individuals, students, professionals, helpers, groups, teams, organizations, and companies.

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

25 trainings and workshops

13 team supervision and support groups

34 organizational development consultations

During 2024, we began a cycle of training aimed at **working with children with traumatic experiences** - we plan to continue in 2025!



OUR MAIN CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN 2024 INCLUDED...

- public, expert, and professional training, lectures, and workshops
- supervision sessions for professionals
- capacity building for professionals and organizations working with vulnerable groups
- assessment of organizational needs, and development of tailor-made organizational development programs
- group and individual support programs for organizations and companies
- programs for inclusive practices for organizations and companies

IN 2024, WE WORKED WITH...



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. CoReMH currently has 25 members from 10 countries along the transit route dedicated to improving mental health practices and policies for refugees in transit. During 2024, 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 is available at the following [link](#).



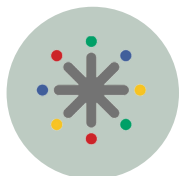
The Mental Health (MH) Movement is an informal network founded by Serbian CSOs, among them PIN, working in the area of mental health in July 2021. The aims of the MH Movement are mental health promotion, improving the availability and accessibility of mental health care in the community, improving the position of people with psychosocial disabilities, combatting stigma, and advocacy. The annual MH Movement report is available [on the link](#). In 2024, we organized the IV Belgrade Mental Health Festival with three community events, including joining the international campaign "Light a candle" on World Suicide Prevention Day. For more of the activities within the MH Movement, check out [the network's newly launched webpage](#).



NCH is a platform uniting CSOs and authorities to mainstream efforts for preventing and addressing homelessness nationwide. Its mission is to combat discrimination, stigmatization, and exclusion of persons in the situation of homelessness. As a member of NCH, we contributed to key activities in 2024. In May, we participated in the introductory event of ADRA's "Combating Homelessness" project, and as panelists, discussed current practices in mental health support for people experiencing homelessness. In September, we led two sessions at the training "Working with People Experiencing Homelessness - Models and Practices" in Novi Sad. In October, we co-organized a public event for World Homeless Day, advocating for systemic solutions. Throughout 2024, we engaged in advocacy against discriminatory statements by decision-makers in Serbia.

THROUGHOUT 2024, WE'VE NURTURED OUR NETWORKS...

networks highlights



Beginning with the January meeting on strategic planning, we participated in working meetings and events for the Platform of Organizations for Cooperation with UN Human Rights Mechanisms.

PIN participated in the annual Mental Health Europe conference and took part in board elections during the assembly held in Brussels in June.



We were voted in full membership in the National Youth Council of Serbia during the assembly held in September on Avala.

As a part of the Network of organizations for children, we took part in the annual assembly in Kragujevac in October.



We also participated in the first strategic planning of the Network for Combating Homelessness, which took place in December in Belgrade.



IV BELGRADE FESTIVAL OF MENTAL HEALTH 10. september – 31. october 2024.

Together with members of Pokret, we organized **the fourth Belgrade Festival of Mental Health**. This year, the festival was especially important to us because, for the first time, World Suicide Prevention Day was marked with the public action "Light a candle".



IN 2024, WE WERE GLAD TO WELCOME...

13 VOLUNTEERS
AND INTERNS

Many thanks to Anya, Anika, Aleksandra, Mirjana, Milica, Marko, Marina, Natalija, Lena, Sara F., Sara L., Sofija, Teodora, and Tijana



8 STUDENT
COLABORATORS

With students from LIRA Lab - Iva, Ivana, Lazo, Lena, Matija, Milica, Una, and Zlata we implemented the project "Okreni priču, pokreni generaciju"

7 GUESTS AND
COLLEGUES

From Bosnia, Russia, and Armenia.



AS WELL AS COUNTED SOME...

18 GUESTS LECTURS
AND PANEL TALKS

16 MEDIA GUEST
APPEARANCES

TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE
TOPICS WE COVERED IN 2024...



Mentalno zdravlje u Srbiji, Agelast podkast
Maša Vukčević Marković, Tamara Džamonja Ignjatović



Previše problema, premalo stručnjaka u oblasti mentalnog zdravlja u Srbiji, Radio slobodna Evropa
Maša Vukčević Marković



Balansiranje u doba sagorevanja, Alternativni MOD/DOM
Draga Šapić



Šta je uzrok političke apatije u našem društvu, Nedeljnik
Maša Vukčević Marković, Sara Dojčinović



LUL FM - O priručniku za rad sa mladima, Radio Aparat
Sara Dojčinović



Empatija, YRT Podkast
Sara Dojčinović, Milica Ninković

MAINTAINING TRADITION OF PIN DAYS OF MENTAL HEALTH

This is our third year organizing PIN Days of Mental Health, this time under slogan "Everyone's and no one's".

148

people visited the PIN days events

PIN DANI
MENTALNOG
ZDRAVLJA

i ničije, i svačije

25.09. - 25.10.2024.

PIN DANI
MENTALNOG
ZDRAVLJA

*i ničije,
i svačije*

25.09. - 25.10.2024.



Expert or activist

With everchanging societies, is it a part of the role of an expert in mental health to also civilly engage in areas within the wider context that affects mental health? During the panel talk, we reflected on this question and the research we conducted on this topic.

Mental health of refugees in transit

The ninth year of researching refugees' mental health, this time using qualitative methodology, with results presented during an expert roundtable.



Youth-tailored mental health support

Although statistics are important when talking about youth mental health, during our forum we aimed to bring the data to life and talk about the everyday experiences we go through during youth, together with wonderful poet Ognjenka Lakićević.



NEW AND OLD CHALLENGES

Despite the milestones in 2024, we remain wary of the numerous challenges that persist and demand enduring responsibility and persistence in 2025.

- A particularly difficult period in 2024 followed the collapse of the canopy in Novi Sad, which resulted in the tragic loss of fifteen lives and was met with an inadequate response from the relevant institutions. This triggered student blockades and mass protests that have continued into 2025. The tragedy, along with the authorities' initial lack of action, severely impacted public trust and heightened concerns about basic safety. Once again, it became evident that addressing mental health requires tackling the broader social conditions in which we live. However, the student's response, supported by citizens across Serbia, sparked long-awaited and much-needed solidarity and a united fight for the rule of law, independent institutions, and a more just, solitary, and compassionate society.
- Serbia **still lacks some of the key public policy documents** that could advance mental health care in our country. We entered the third year without an Action plan for the implementation of the Program for the Protection of Mental Health in Serbia for 2019 - 2026. On hold are also Standards for counseling and therapeutic services social welfare system, Law on the psychotherapy, and the Law on psychological activity.
- **The Program for the Protection of Mental Health in Serbia for 2019 - 2026** has entered its last phase, with next year being the last for implementation. Without an accompanying action plan, and clearly defined budget lines, there is little possibility that we can hope the goals and measures defined by this Program will be fulfilled during this and the next year.
- **Lack of monitoring mechanism** for implementation of the Program, its effects, and outcomes, as well as overall steps for the advancement of the mental health care system in Serbia. Because of this, we lack crucial data when it comes to the population's mental health status, available services, and local and national resources.
- There is still a **lack of available, accessible, acceptable, and good-quality mental health care** in Serbia. This is especially a problem for persons from already underserved and vulnerable groups, who face many obstacles (lack of personal documents, poverty, language barriers, lack of information, discrimination...) in getting proper mental health care.
- **Social and political pressures**, along with exposure to violence and the **adverse economic position** of the majority of citizens, are still ubiquitous risk factors for the mental health of Serbian citizens.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF IN 2024...

Our partners, donors, and colleagues

We want to extend our deep gratitude to everyone who showed confidence in us during the past year. In 2024, we've cooperated and partnered with many public institutions, national and international organizations, associations, and private entities - we thank them all for their unwavering trust, support and partnership. We are looking forward to further collaboration in the upcoming years.

Recognition of our work

We are deeply grateful for the recognition we received for our work, among others, from the **Association of Serbian Banks**, who have acknowledged and promoted our work. Mostly, we are proud of the recognition our team members got - this year, Maša Vukčević Marković received the **Award for the Best Scientific Work of Young Scientists** at the University of Belgrade, awarded by the Đoka Vlačković Endowment, for the work co-authored with our Aleksandra Bobić. Maša was also recognized by the Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovations as being among **the top 10% of scientifically excellent researchers** in Serbia.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SOME OF THE THINGS WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF IN 2024...

An opportunity to flexibly organize our work

We piloted a **32-hour working week**, and we are proud and happy to share that despite the ups and downs of adhering to this progressive working model, we were overall successful in implementing it and will continue to do so in 2025.



Opportunities to strengthen our capacities

From financial management to working with trauma, we underwent a variety of training to grow our own skills and knowledge. Our team, on top of Zoom meeting rooms, had the opportunity to go on study visits to learn from colleagues in Poland, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, and all across Serbia!



But most importantly, we are so very thankful for our **amazing team** and all the roads on which we have chosen to embark together in 2024!



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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