

Vanja Rakić: ”Young people really are superheroes who can make change for the better”

Introduce yourself and your job.

I work as a Youth worker in the Municipality of Kruševac in Youth office and in charge of managing the programs and activities at Youth Club of Municipality of Kruševac.

What makes your job exciting?

Unpredictability, level of energy and the amount of ideas young people that surround me on everyday basis makes my job even more than exciting.

What are your dreams as a youth worker?

My dream as a youth worker is plain and simple; standardized youth work and that every young person has hers/his youth worker in the community in which they live.

Why did you choose youth work?

When I was younger (in high school), there were no programmes and activities aimed towards young people; there were no places in which other young people with similar interests could gather so I set for myself a personal goal, to use my time and knowledge to make that possible in my municipality.

What is your most memorable experience as a youth worker?

My most memorable experience was the training course for gaining the youth worker status. It changed my views and made me understand my core values. As a part of the training, I worked with a group of young people from my municipality. Today, 7 years later, all of the 25 young people are involved in some shape, way of form in working with young people and making their communicates a better place for youth.

How has your job affected you and what have you learned?

Youth work affected me in many ways; mainly, to have more patience, to better articulate my feelings, to understand my core values and that young people really are superheroes who can make change for the better.