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## THE APPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ORDERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA PRESENTED THROUGH STATISTICAL DATA OF THE REPUBLIC INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Summary:** Educational orders represent *sui generis* measures—neither criminal sanctions nor purely preventive actions—but rather instruments aimed at redirecting the social response to juvenile offenders by transforming it into a primarily non-penal reaction. Educational orders may be imposed not only by the court but also by the juvenile public prosecutor, with the primary goal of avoiding the initiation of criminal proceedings against minors. Consequently, the ultimate purpose of applying educational orders is the termination of criminal proceedings, in order to positively influence the juvenile offender and, through proper personality development and the strengthening of personal responsibility, prevent recidivism. The data on the implementation of educational orders, which serve as the basis for assessing trends in their application, are derived from the annual reports of social welfare centers presented in the annual reports of the Republic Institute for Social Protection of Serbia. The subject of this paper is the analysis of the application of educational orders to juveniles on the territory of the Republic of Serbia over a five-year period (2018–2022), with the aim of determining the frequency and patterns of their use.

**Keywords:** educational orders, juveniles, alternative measures

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