



List of Proposed Role Models-Austria

Nr.1

Title of Role model:

Roma Armee – Theatre in Austria

Country:

Austria

Short Description of the Role model:

(350 words max)

Mindj Panther, two Roma sisters and actresses who act, rap, and make political art interventions were in Vienna in 2014. Their names are Sandra and Simonida Selimovic. Roma Armee, started from Sandra and Simonida’s idea to create a utopian army for Roma people in order to fight oppression. This was the first time their art was showcased in a mainstream theatre. They performed Roma Armee twice a month for an audience of at least 400 people per show, and “we feel that—finally—our art got recognition in the European cultural scene”.

Their topics are related to Roma people, racism, sexism, and our history. The first Romano Svato show was in 2011 and it was called “Gypsy Stop Dancing”. It was inspired by the history of the Sinti (German Roma) boxer Johann Trollmann, who was killed by the Nazis in a concentration camp. In 1933, Trollmann became champion but after only one week, his title was taken back for “bad boxing,” or boxing in a Gypsy style. As a sign of resistance, Trollmann went to the ring for his last professional fight with dyed blonde hair and his body covered with flour as a way to mock them. Their goal was to change the representation of Roma women and to say that a Romni (Roma woman) can also box even if people do not associate them with sports but with the cliché roles of the mother and housewife. Their second theatre performance, “Astoria”, is about classism in Austria and discusses the relationship between poverty and marginalized minorities.



**Potential Benefits
from this Role model**

(350 words max)

This Role Model is very beneficial, because not only did they manage to get successful in art, but also are demonstrating very important topics in terms of Roma people in Austria and in countries nearby. The name of their theatre translates into “the Roma word”, which means that they also want to promote their language. We chose this name because they want to promote their language. There are so many Roma children that do not speak Romani so they wanted to empower them to learn. They also rap in Romani.

**How this Role Model
could be used in the
project**

(250 words max)

This Role Model is very helpful in the project to look at the situation of Roma people in Austria and in Europe from a different perspective, the perspective of art. The sisters demonstrate very important topics of Romani people, their culture and language. And with this theatrical approach and music they make it even more interesting. They can serve as an inspiration as well as a great example of how else people can show crucial topics.

**Multimedia Link or
attach file in the
folder:**

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02_R1AjFyYE



Nr.2

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|---|---|
| Title of Role model: | The “Digitalists” <i>dROMa</i> in Burgerland |
| Country: | Austria |
| Short Description of the Role model: (350 words max) | <p>dROMa (a play on the words “Roma” and “Droma”, which means paths) is a media portal of the association “Roma-Service” based in Burgenland. Their quarterly print magazine dROMa can be downloaded, and their online blog offers worldwide news coverage (on themes relevant for Roma). Since 2011, the quarterly dROMa TV in Burgenland-Romani provided Roma in Europe with an online source of information. In terms of content, the program approaches highly charged political issues in a serious and sensitive manner.</p> <p>On the cover of the print version, one finds pictures of community role models rather than images of slums. There is, of course, also a lot of news on Facebook and Twitter. As a small service, they also provide a long list of links to pages on Roma, media and politics. So much for the idea that Roma are not into new media ...</p> |
| Potential Benefits from this Role model (350 words max) | <p>The task of the Roma Service association is to promote, preserve and document the culture of the Burgenland Roma. The main focus of activities is the preservation of Roman, the Romani dialect of the Burgenland Roma. Again, a good examples of Roma people supporting their culture and language. A good Role Model for inspiration which has on its platforms as well a lot of other Romani Role Models who can motivate and inspire even more people</p> |
| How this Role Model could be used in the project | <p>This Role model could be used in trainings in Austria, because it is highly relevant to the project, as it is an online tool which helps to preserve Romani culture within Austria.</p> |



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(250 words max)

**Multimedia Link or
attach file in the
folder:**

Their website

http://www.roma-service.at/dromablog/?page_id=2



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Nr.3

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| Title of Role model: | Saška Dimić, a tutor at Romano Centro in Vienna |
| Country: | Austria |
| Short Description of the Role model: (350 words max) | A representative of Roma youth. Saška Dimić has been campaigning for Roma rights for three years. It wasn't until she was 16 that she realized that she was a member of this ethnic group. Until then I thought we were just full-blooded Serbs. "And that's why I wanted to know more about it, asked questions, read a lot and was also at Roma youth conferences and meetings in Barcelona, Duisburg, Berlin and Macedonia. And then I started tutoring children through the Romano Centro, at times eight children at the same time." |
| Potential Benefits from this Role model (350 words max) | This story can be beneficial in many ways. First of all, it is a representative of the young generation. A girl, who already has done a lot in her life to support her culture and people. She is an inspiring examples of how important it is to raise awareness of including Roma people into the civic engagement. She herself is an example of perfect civic engagement. |
| How this Role Model could be used in the project (250 words max) | This Role model could be used in trainings and awareness-raising trainings of Roma people in Austria in order to raise awareness through giving motivational speeches or talking about her own experience. She is a bright example of actually doing something, so it would be very beneficial for both Roma adults and Roma youth to see what opportunities they have. |
| Multimedia Link or attach file in the folder: | Article about the story of a young girl |



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<https://kurier.at/leben/kiku/gedenkveranstaltung-ausstellung-junge-roma/276.806.399>



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