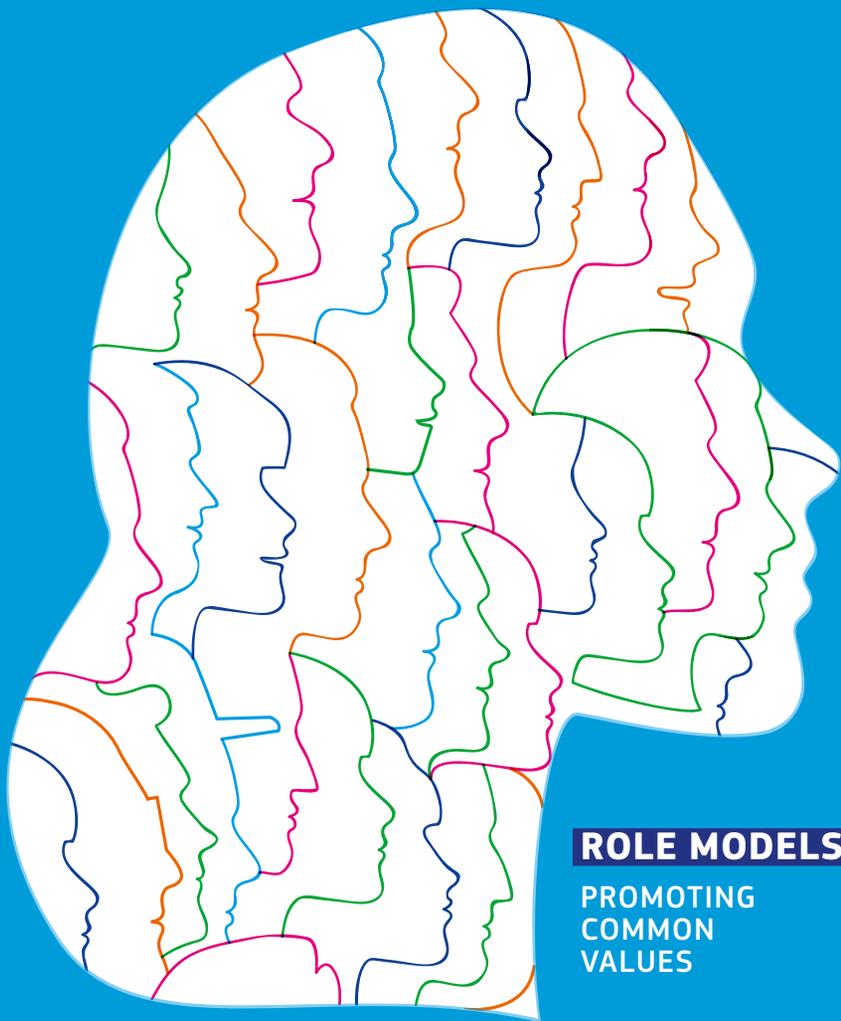




European  
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## **ROLE MODELS**

PROMOTING  
COMMON  
VALUES

## GET INVOLVED

- > If you are a **teacher or a social worker** who would like to organise an event with a role model in your community
- > If you want to participate as a **role model**
- > Or if you already run a **similar initiative...**



Contact the relevant Erasmus+ National Agency to check the options available: [ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact/national-agencies](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact/national-agencies)

## MORE INFORMATION:

- > Role models take part on a voluntary basis
- > Erasmus+ National Agencies may adapt the initiative to national contexts
- > Erasmus+ National Agencies may use Erasmus+ funding to contribute to travel and organisational costs for events related to this initiative
- > Role models can also be used in the implementation of cooperation projects supported by the Erasmus+ programme, including in applications submitted under the Erasmus+ calls for proposals ([ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/calls](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/opportunities/calls))



## Initiatives supported by Erasmus+



The Czech Republic has selected “The Magnificent Seven” - seven role models whose stories are told through social media and a series of events.



In Greece, the initiative has been tested in underprivileged regions and local events were organised in Komotini and Ioannina in September 2017, where primary, secondary and vocational education teachers as well as prospective role models received training.



In France, an action was piloted in Bordeaux in late 2017 where Erasmus+ ambassadors for citizenship were selected and trained to engage with pupils, members of associations and sports clubs using innovative and participative approaches.



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## A role model is...

- > someone to look up to
- > someone who leads by example
- > someone whose story can inspire young people in need of guidance

## ROLE MODELS

come from all walks of life and professional backgrounds. They have sometimes taken an unusual path to discover their true vocation. Often they have overcome major obstacles, helping them grow and become resilient.

Their experiences can serve as examples to young people struggling to find a place in society or tempted by easy shortcuts.

### By speaking to others, role models

- > inspire people to grow, take control of their lives, and help shape those of people around them.
- > encourage others to become engaged in society, and to think differently about themselves and their place in their communities



## Why a role model initiative?

In a Europe facing growing inequality and the threat of violent extremism, highlighting common European values such as democracy, solidarity and respect for human rights is crucial. This initiative strengthens social inclusion, intercultural understanding and critical thinking. Putting forward inspiring examples that make common values part of everyday life can help Europe build prosperous, tolerant and inclusive societies.

## Initiatives supported by Erasmus+



An Italian initiative called “A model to dream”, launched in April 2017, focuses on ways of preventing social exclusion among young people to stop them becoming radicalised, through presenting role models who can help inspire them and turn their hopes into reality. Two events were held in 2017 in Puglia (on defeating fear) and Milano (focusing on the risk of exposure to violence and radicalisation online).

## IN PRACTICE...

The European Commission has established a network, supported by Erasmus+, which enables local stakeholders to invite role models to share experiences with young people and motivate them to overcome their everyday challenges.

The Erasmus+ National Agencies in the Erasmus+ programme countries are rolling out the initiative, either by themselves or in cooperation with local partners.

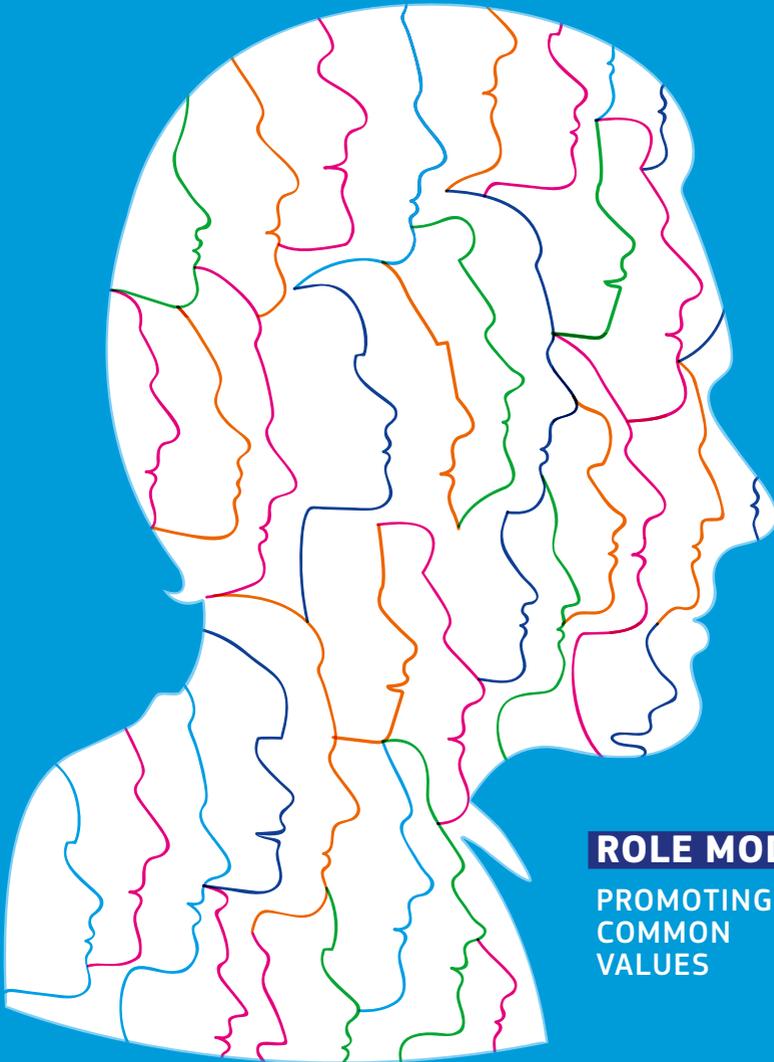
The aim is for more role models to engage with target audiences in a variety of settings, without financial and administrative obstacles for the participating communities.



In the summer of 2017, role models in Eastern Lithuania (in towns including Visaginas and Šalčininkai) shared insights into the most challenging moments of their youth, on how to choose a profession, and on the meaning of Lithuanian and European citizenship.



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