ROLE MODEL STEREOTYPES

The tool encourages learners to critically analyze and question societal norms, comprehend the underpinning biases, and consciously reflect on how these parameters affect their own perceptions and, eventually, identity. Engaging in activities that explore and challenge stereotypes of role models helps to develop critical thinking, cultural competence, self-awareness, the sense of empowerment, and valuable media literacy skills.

The tool **aims** to:

- Make learners aware of the stories they carry and reiterate, constructing their own stereotypes.
- Support learners to comprehend how they limit their understanding and exclude, or make it difficult to be open and receptive to, different narratives.
- Encourage them to realize the diversity and potential of existing narratives.
- Support them realize the assumptions their perceptions, interpretations and narratives carry, as well as the ensuing anticipatory patterns they project.
- Encourage them to reflect on how collective interpretations and narratives affect them, individually and collectively, as a community.

How to apply it

Images can be either printed or a collection of digital/online material. It is important that they involve depictions of one or more human figures involved in memorials, art (painting, sculpture, installations etc.), photographs, adverts, social media snapshots etc.

Learners are asked to choose four images that respond to the questions:

1. What image depicts best what a role model is to you? (A)

2. What image depicts best what you want a role model to be in the future? (B)

3. What image depicts best what a role model means to society? (C)

4. What image depicts best what you want role models to mean to society in the future? (D)

The facilitator asks learners to place their images on the chart below and build narratives based on their choices.

A	C
D	B

Depending on the context and the specific pursuits of the facilitator, they can ask <u>guiding questions</u> such as:

- What do you see when you compare your images A & B?
- What are your thoughts when comparing images A & C?
- How do you think they differ or are the same? How do you feel about that?
- What assumptions are hidden behind your narratives?
- How would your interpretations and the narratives be different, had the assumptions been different?

Suggested combination with other Visual Literacy tools

The "Role Model Stereotypes" combines effectively with the "<u>Barcoded Baby</u>", the "<u>Wall</u>", the "<u>Frame</u>", the "<u>Role-playing</u>", the "<u>Visuality Iceberg</u>", and the "<u>Reframing Concepts</u>" tools.

NOTE: This tool was co-developed with Sebastian Plate, https://www.linkedin.com/in/sebastian-plate-109360119/