



About ROB

ROB - Rugby Opens Borders – originally initiated by the Viennese record champion Rugby Union Donau Wien, gives young refugees and migrants the opportunity to become part of the global rugby community – on and off the pitch. Besides weekly trainings and get-togethers (cooking and eating together), social activities and team-building measures like workshops, excursions as well as festivities promote our aim to dissolve borders and enable young refugees to become part of the Austrian society.

Our international team is comprised of a heterogeneous group of young, motivated people with diverse professions: Athletes & Rugby players from the national team and local clubs, social workers, teachers, students and even musicians contribute in different ways to support our youngsters and build a strong framework around our activities. Together we welcome and support minor refugees from different parts of the world, to help them find their path into Austrian society.



Get Together! After training we cook, eat and celebrate together.

Watching their role-models play



Social Activities

The concept of „Rugby Opens Borders“ is based on regular, free rugby training sessions for beginners, combined with get-togethers, where refugees and Austrian rugby players get to know each other and exchange their experiences while sharing a meal together.

These activities are accompanied by a range of social activities, such as excursions, workshops and celebrations, in order to facilitate the social interaction and bonding between the refugees and the Austrian rugby players and develop friendships between them.

In addition, ROB focuses on the personal development of the participants, by offering personal coaching and tutoring (e.g studying German and English) through a specialized coaching team. This has already resulted in the successful granting of scholarships to some of the ROB players, thereby opening doors for a better education.

Vienna City Tour



Success Stories

In the first year more than 150 unaccompanied minor refugees have already participated in our „Rugby Opens Borders“ training sessions, and several talented players have been able to make their way into the youth teams of renowned Austrian rugby clubs such as Rugby Union Donau Wien, thereby becoming valuable and respected members of the Austrian rugby community.

These players are appointed as ROB-ambassadors, supporting the project team in the decision making process and actively participating in the recruitment of new players by sharing the values and ideals of our project and of rugby as a sport.

Besides a number of successful events and fundraisers one of the biggest achievements so far was the participation in the United World Games with “Team ROB” (comparable to the youth olympic games with more than 8000 participants from over 40 Nations) .



Furthermore, several national & international awards have been won by our project:



World Rugby Award for Character 2016



1st place - JUFA price for youth development 2016 (JUFA Jugendsportpreis - Sportunion Austria)



2nd place - Austrian price for Integration 2015

(Integrationspreis Sport - Federal ministry of foreign affairs & Austrian fund for integration)



“Place of respect 2016”

Nomination (Ort des Respekts - respekt.net foundation)



Our Training

Our weekly rugby training sessions for unaccompanied minor refugees are the fundament of „Rugby Opens Borders“ and are run by experienced coaches and rugby players, some even being active players in the Austrian national team.

The specially designed ROB trainings aim to spark the interest in the game in these kids and teach them the basic skills as well as the values of rugby. After new players have developed to a certain degree, they are invited to train with the youth team of RU Donau Wien (Junior Pirates) or with the teams of our collaborators. Experienced ROB players help organizing and running the ROB training sessions and also serve as translators and role-models for the new participants of the programme.

Furthermore, we're collaborating with the women's team of Rugby Union Donau Wien to establish a ROB girls' team - we're thrilled to have up to 15 motivated girls from all over the world at our trainings!



Rugby – why we love it.

→ Rugby is a **teamsport**, that can be played by anyone, no matter which colour, size or weight. It's all about the heart.

→ Rugby teaches **values** such as respect, discipline, tolerance and team spirit.

→ Rugby is one of the **fastest growing** sports worldwide with more than 2,5 billion spectators at the last world cup and has gained further momentum by becoming an **olympic discipline** in 2016



United World Games

The UNITED WORLD GAMES are among Europe's finest youth sporting events and attract thousands of young athletes from all around the world every year. Sport unites, even though skin color, origin and religion of the UWG participants might differ.

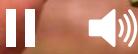


The unique combination of awesome sport venues (such as the EURO 2008 arena) and the breathtaking location right next to lake Wörthersee pose with no doubt the perfect mix between sports and vacation.

In 2016 we established a cooperation with United World Games and were invited to participate in the international 7s rugby tournament for the first time with our "ROB rugbyteam without borders". There, our refugee team competed with teams from the UK and the US, even teams from international rugby academies, but also other European and Austrian teams.

Apart from the attention gained, it was a huge experience for the young players, who massively improved their rugby skills and were able to score their first international tries in this tournament, thereby earning the respect of all other teams. Besides the sporty development, the participation in this tournament was especially helpful to facilitate teambuilding and bonding within the team and with the youth teams of Rugby Union Donau Wien and other clubs.

We are planning to extend this amazing co-operation and participate with more ROB teams in the coming years.



PR & Media Expertise

Our team has extensive expertise in social media management and PR. Our aim is to efficiently communicate our project goals and visions and inspire others by what we do.

One among several other achievements in this context was the production and publication of a short video about our project that gained more than 300.000 views on Facebook, and was shared more than 2000 times. It reached and inspired the world wide rugby community and might have set the standard for other similar projects with similar objectives. So far no other Austrian or international Rugby-related initiative for refugees has gained as much attention as "Rugby Opens Borders". This can also be seen, by the dozens of newspaper articles that have been published since the start of our initiative.

Another side project still under development is the production of a documentary about our participants with a focus on their personal development and the impact of rugby and the participation in "Team ROB" on their life. The movie is planned to be released by the end of 2017/2018.



„Integration ist ja keine EINBAHNSTRASSE!“



Collaborations

One of our biggest assets is our strong national and international network. Originally initiated by the Rugby Union Donau Wien, the project has expanded and gained support by several Austrian rugby clubs, such as Rugby Club Stade Wien and Rugby Club Innsbruck that are both official partners in the project and also organize ROB-training sessions for refugees. Furthermore, ROB is actively driving the formation of international cooperations, such as our cooperation with the Rugby Club Bulldogs from the UK. The Austrian Rugby Federation is an official partner of the project, regularly provides tickets for big events such as the Austrian rugby finals, or test- & championship matches of the Austrian national team and helps by promoting our activities.

Rugby Opens Borders also works together with renowned institutions in Austria specialized on refugees such as the Austrian fund for Integration (ÖIF), UNIDO, Caritas, Don Bosco, Samariterbund, Verein Zeitraum, Diakonie, Integrationshaus, Amnesty International Austria, Train of Hope, fairplay and many more. Besides offering access to our programme to these organizations, joint events and initiatives are organized, raising public awareness and providing positive media coverage. We also work together with a number of other local projects, such as Prosa, Garten der Begegnung, Flüchtlinge Willkommen, Rugby mit Herz, "Lila smile" and more.

Besides our collaborations, we have also received sponsoring by a number of renowned organizations such as UNESCO Club Vienna, United World Games, Round Table 26 Vienna and The Austrian rugby federation (ÖRV). We are looking for international partners that can help us develop our project even further, and support our vision of becoming a world-wide initiative for integration through sports.

Please contact us for any inquiries:
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Caritas & Du



Integrationshaus



Running for fair sportswear



Planting our own tree with Garten der Begegnung.