

## Project Debating Xenìa

**Applicant:** Comune di Montescudaio

**Partners:** Gemeinde Eberstadt (Germany)

Ogranak Matice Hrvatske U Orebicu (Croatia)

Dimos Evrotas (Greece)

**Main activity of the project:** Twinning event - from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**National activity:** Dissemination event – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Abstract

Our project starts from the Ancient Greek concept of Xenìa (hospitality) in order to create a counter-narrative for fostering intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. The ancient Greeks considered Xenìa as a behavioral code derived from the gods. We believe that this concept is very fruitful for spreading the importance of hospitality in opposition to hostility, that seems to be a peculiar attitude towards migrants nowadays. The Greeks were aware that their civilization was the result of former migrations and they had preserved preexisting ethnic backgrounds. Even now, the EU is composed by very different citizens that, thanks to their different cultures, contribute to enrich the European culture (United in diversity!). In other words, both for the Greeks and for the EU, diversity is a value added to preserve and to promote. Thanks to this awareness, it will be more easy to understand migrants' cultures as a value and not as a threat. The project uses Xenìa as a tool for comparing past and present positions towards migration. The present concept of hospitality will be analyzed both at the EU level, while examining the EU policy on migration, and at national and municipal level. Actually, the event in Montescudaio will represent an opportunity to share opinions about differences and similarities in terms of hospitality and to widen the acceptance of hospitality as a useful approach towards migrants. Throughout the implementation of the project, a documentary will be made in order to report on existing feelings towards the stranger. This documentary will represent also an opportunity to show the capacity of the project in changing participants' perspectives. This shift of approach will also affect the whole society of the four involved partners. Finally, the creation of a website and another common event, where the documentary will be shown in the four main squares of the municipalities, will be a useful contribution to a new circulation of the idea of Xenìa.