

# MELODY

## Music Empowerment Local Diversity

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### Resonating Roots: Music as a Bridge for New Beginnings



The Erasmus+ project MELODY – Music Empowering Local Diversity aims to empower adults with migratory backgrounds through the co-creation of a musical work using digital tools. By forming a virtual, transnational team, the project fosters integration and intercultural dialogue while expanding accessibility beyond physical boundaries. It will culminate in the 3D printing of the collaboratively created lyrics and music, and a final performance in Granada, which will be recorded to produce an artistic documentary.

## Background – Cross Training of Trainers

The partnership met on the 3rd to 5th October 2024 in Foligno, Italy, for the Cross Training of Trainers. The purpose of the training was to exchange skills and good practices in order to gain new knowledge and competences from each other related to multidisciplinary artistic co-creation.



Within the lines of the training, the **CRHACK LAB** invited professor Tassos Kolydas from the National Kapodistrian University of Athens, who presented to the partners an intervention on digital tools for collaborative music-making in education, with a special focus on digital score applications. This session provided valuable ideas and food-for-thought for the partners, generating a complex discussion on how to implement this knowledge in the co-creation model.

Mr. Kolydas' doctoral student, Stavroula Matrozou, was also invited to present to speak about music education and technology for social inclusion, bringing the good practice example of El Sistema Greece, which provided a deeper understanding of the social aspect of the project, which will involve adults of migratory background.

# Orchestra Improvisata



The partner **Orchestra Improvisata** presented their methodology, “Ritmo con Segni” (rhythm with signs), which uses hand movements to conduct the music players. The participants of the training were taught how this method of making music works and were invited to try it themselves. The activity opened a discussion on how the methodology can be implemented into the co-creation model and posed questions on possible problems, such as the difficulty of creating music live in an online platform.



# La Musica de las Esferas

**IES Luis Bueno Crespo** presented the methodology "Musica de las Esferas" (music of the spheres). The method uses a simple mathematical logic to convert rhymes into circles, which can then be 3D printed into sphere complexes. It was well received and the partners discussed how they can include it into the virtual platform as well



## Facilitating Integration Through Culture: The MELODY Model



The MELODY methodology was created as a comprehensive tool to help communities with significant migrant populations move from passive acceptance to active participation through culturally diverse artistic contributions. It emphasizes integration as a bidirectional process, enriching the shared cultural heritage for both migrants and host communities alike. Rather than targeting individuals directly, the methodology supports organizations promoting integration through cultural projects, addressing the common challenge of engaging participants with differing cultural and social backgrounds around shared creative goals.

## The Methodology



The **MELODY methodology** serves as a practical tool for associations developing cultural integration projects across various art forms—such as music, photography, cinema, painting, or ceramics. Its main goal is to guide the preparatory phase, from engaging potential participants to co-creating a shared project narrative among all stakeholders. By fostering collaboration and teamwork, the methodology lays the groundwork for the project's launch, at which point its role naturally comes to an end.



## The Methodology in 4 Steps:

**Selection of participants**

**Team building with the Ritmo con Segni technique**

**Co-design of the narrative plot points with the Musica de las Esferas technique**

**Co-creation of the final narrative through the social VR platform, Hubs**



## The workshops. Write the Rhythm, write the Rhyme

In all partner countries, between January and March 2024, we began the Workshops, building a solid network of collaboration with local associations involved in welcoming migrants, and we formed the MELODY team with those who chose to join the project.

### Sound in the Making

The first preparatory workshops, aimed at **building and strengthening the groups**, were led by Orchestra Improvisata, which was responsible for teaching "**Rhythm with Signs**" – a language, a game, and a pedagogical system. This language, composed of gestures made with the hands, arms, and the whole body, is used to coordinate **musical improvisations**, with a particular focus on rhythm. It is also a rhythmic game, as it is played collectively, within a group.



### Write the Rhythm

The participants then continued with the **Storytelling workshops**, where each person shared their past, experiences, and life stories through music and the art of narration. From these sessions, **texts** were created that will later be rewritten in rhyme to enable the final stage: the creation of the **Spheres** – real **3D artworks** developed from the rhymed texts by the partner IES Luis Bueno Crespo, using their innovative method La Música de las Esferas.



## The Virtual Space

Alongside the conclusion of the workshops, CrHack Lab has been contributing to the implementation of the Methodology through the creation of the 3D virtual space Hubs, which will host the music, texts, and photographic memories of the shared journey. This open and accessible platform will allow users to experience a virtual exhibition of the project, as well as a digital archive where every step taken together can be revisited.



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