**2nd International meeting of Erasmus+:**

**“Keep Europe United: Refugees and Frontiers”**

 **Greece**

**The History**

**by Christian Girardelli, Alberto Laini, Luca Dimauro e Claudio Onorati**

**Liceo “Bagatta” - Italy**

From 1st to 9th October 2018 five Italian students participated in the second International meeting of the Erasmus + Project. This meeting was based on the theme of immigration, in contrast with the emigration phenomenon in our own countries.

On the first day each country had to show data and research through exhibitions, clips, debates, art performances, etc... Different perspectives helped us to change our point of view, to be more open-minded and more conscious about integration and welcoming. In Athens we visited a refugees center for minors coming from Syria, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Iraq. The humanitarian workers introduced us to the refugees and let us socialize through an interactive game; we learned about their stories, their journey and their past life before reaching Greece.

On 6th October we went to Chios and visited a reception centre for underage asylum seekers. There we had a dialogue with the people hosted in the structure about our dreams for the future. It was interesting to realize that our dreams were related to our future studies and jobs, whereas the refugees' dreams were mainly related to their immediate future: they hoped to receive documents and leave for other European countries to reach their relatives. It was when a young Syrian said that his dream was to study enough so that one day he could return the favor that Greece had made to him by hosting him: he would be working hard for Greek development. Chios has one of the largest refugee camps with a great number of communities inside, because it is not far away from Turkey and it is one of the main entrance points to Europe. Migrants live in tents without any kind of assistance (water, food, clothes, health care;...).

This dialogue and the whole Greek experience made us understand how wrong and senseless common prejudices are. This experience also taught us the importance of dialogue, also among European people, and the beauty of cultural diversity.