



Research Project Title:

**From Grexit to Brexit: interrogating
notions of belonging and identity in
Greece and the UK**

Principal Investigator:

Maria Xenitidou

Popular Title:

**European integration, identity and migration in the
UK and Greece**

Scientific Field:

Social and Political Psychology, Microsociology

Host Institution:

University of Crete



H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for
Research & Innovation

The project aims to cross-examine understandings of human mobility and belonging in the UK and Greece, as well as the categories that are made relevant and implicated in this process. This is inspired by two crucial and topical questions: “who belongs where” within the national and EU contexts; “who benefits and who is left out” from the EU integration regime. These are deemed important for many reasons: for the integration regimes employed top-down within the UK and Greece; for the implications they may bear for the freedom of movement and the welfare state, e.g. in view of the recent referendum outcome in the UK; for the welfare of movers and non-movers; and for the EU project as a whole. Taken for granted assumptions may fail to capture the uptake of notions such as migration, mobility, identity and belonging ‘on the ground’, or reify distinctions between core and periphery inter alia.

The project aims to deconstruct mobility and belonging in a way that critically assesses what these mean to different people, including lay actors, the media and political elites. This is because in considering “who belongs where” and “who benefits from who” and “who is left out” from an integrating Europe, policies and laws provide the institutional framework for membership and integration (and by implication non-membership and exclusion respectively) but these are also matters of everyday social relations and public debate.

Through a comprehensive communications and awareness strategy and through dedicated actions, we aim to bring project insights before the general public, raising awareness on ‘mobility’ and ‘belonging’ issues in the UK and Greece, and the EU in general. The idea is to shed light on ignored or downplayed implications, and to stimulate public discussion outside the boundaries of the specific project.

This will involve the setting up of a series of small participatory workshops (along the rationale of ‘Go Home’ campaign) as well as an online communications campaign that will involve the utilisation of social media (e.g. Facebook), a project website and blog alongside traditional communication channels (e.g. non-technical briefing papers, newspapers) all of which will be informed continuously with the material produced from the project.

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Receiving financial support from H.F.R.I. in order to study identity and mobility issues in two contexts of mistrust of the EU project, Greece and the UK, equips the project with added prestige and myself, as an experienced researcher, with the confidence that my work will be treated with the attention and support it requires. In addition, the financial support enables me to develop a research team, engaging early career researchers in research and development. Finally, it provides the opportunity to disseminate insights from the research not only to relevant academic communities but also to various interest groups.

*The Principal Investigator,
Maria Xenitidou*

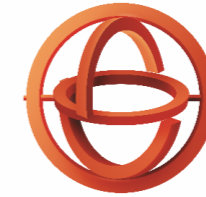
Funding

Amount: **150,000 €**

Duration: **36 months**

Foundation: **H.F.R.I.**





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