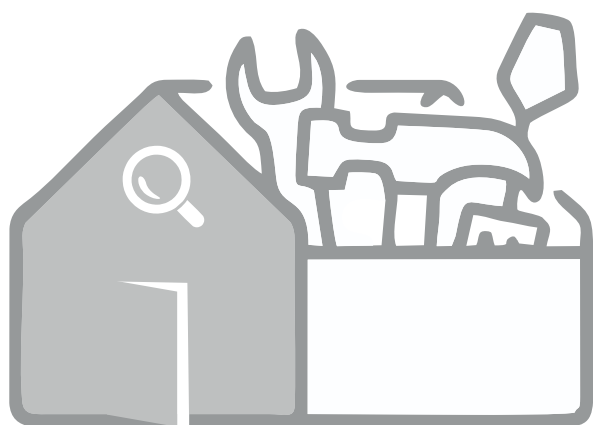




TOWARDS A
EUROPEAN
STRATEGY TO
ENHANCE
CONFISCATED
ASSETS

A MONITORING TOOLKIT





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1 GOOD(S) MONITORING EUROPE! THE IMPORTANCE OF COHESION POLICIES FOR THE PUBLIC AND SOCIAL RE-USE OF ASSETS CONFISCATED FROM ORGANISED CRIME

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The ambitious objective of the **Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!** project is to promote a European strategy of social inclusion aimed at the weakest sections of the population, through public and social re-use of goods confiscated from organised crime in Europe and activation of participatory processes from below. The fight against organised crime depends on the community's ability to generate collective meaning. It is therefore strategic to adopt measures to promote social inclusion through a multidisciplinary approach, giving priority to cohesion policies as a decisive tool to strengthen these practices.

First of all activated a civic monitoring process and analysis of the impact of cohesion policies on the possibility of reusing confiscated assets, by mapping the implementation of Article 10.3 of Directive 2014/42/EU in the EU Member States. To enhance and strengthen the first action, a European summer school was organised in Palermo in July 2021 for creation and testing of a monitoring and participatory design toolkit that will then be implemented in the four European countries involved. This will give new impetus to some possible experiences of public and social re-use of goods confiscated from organised crime, with the use of cohesion funds to support these processes. Fundamental to the whole process was the support of the European network **CHANCE - Civil Hub Against orgaNised in Europe**, which, through its partners, supported the project's implementation and dissemination. The final commitment of Libera and the operators involved will be the proposal to adopt a European Strategy for public and social re-use of confiscated properties through cohesion policies, following the example of good practice developed in Italy.

WHAT RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

- Quantitative and qualitative growth of information and data on public and social re-use practices at European level;

- increasing exchange of good practices on the management of confiscated assets by the non-profit world with the competent authorities;
- development of an innovative civic monitoring toolkit for enhancement of confiscated assets, replicable also in other fields, through cohesion policies; establishment of an informal transnational network of monitoring civic communities, to implement the exchange of good practices;
- wide-ranging promotion of proposals for a European strategy for the public and social re-use of confiscated assets.

THE IMPACT OF GOOD(S) MONITORING, EUROPE!

At the European level, the project's impact was guaranteed by the formation of the informal network of civic communities monitoring confiscated goods, which will participate in the activities of the CHANCE network for strategic planning and advocacy to be carried out among the competent national and European authorities and European citizens. The promotion of proposals and the enhancement of strategies for the social re-use of confiscated assets is part of the actions included in the CHANCE political agenda: to promote a European strategy for the creation of a fund dedicated to the re-use of confiscated assets, which will have an impact on the 2021-2027 programming of European funds, thus guaranteeing long-term impact.



CIVIC MONITORING OF ASSETS CONFISCATED FROM ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION: A COMMUNITY PRACTICE

For several years now, Libera has chosen to engage in a reflection on what citizenship monitoring means (especially after the approval of law no. 190/2012) and how this practice can play a leading role in the prevention of mafias and corruption. The monitoring citizenship was born, therefore, as a response to a need that strongly emerged from the association's territorial initiatives, coordination and territorial groups, which required concrete tools to be more effective in the prevention of corruption, and consequently of the presence of clans.

Precisely for these reasons, we have decided to overturn the most widespread expression "civic monitoring," focusing first on "civic" (citizenship, our real goal) and then on "monitoring" (monitoring, the means, the call to action). Monitoring citizens, therefore, are for Libera those civic activists who use the tools of the right to know made available by the Anti-Corruption Law No. 190/2012 to know and monitor how the Public Administration uses collective resources, organises itself, and makes decisions. In so doing, they give full and real fulfilment to the system of corruption prevention as set out in the 2012 law, which on one hand provides for institutions' commitment to be transparent by publishing data online, and on the other, a civic responsibility to monitor from below using that public data, verifying its existence and consistency. Through their action, citizen monitors promote the care and protection of the common good, extending beyond the mere role of watchdogs of the pact of trust on which public affairs are based. They should not, therefore, be confused with those who abuse these tools to annoy the Public Administration or to look for diatribes at all costs, but neither should they be confused with those who, by definition, shy away from a possible conflict with the Administrations, to be dealt with especially if the Bodies do not respond to the institutional duty of transparency.

Their best form of organisation is that of **monitoring communities**. These can correspond to a single Libera local coordination or another association, a union of realities of the same organisation, or even an enlarged network of



non-party civic realities united by the desire to monitor the same territory or thematic area (health, municipalities, regions, universities and education, environment ...). What is useful is to use these new rights collectively.

In experimenting with these tools on a national level, we wanted to start with the type of common good that best tells our story: confiscated assets. This is why our paths have intertwined with those of an already active project, *Confiscatibene*, promoted by the association Ondata, which is now our partner, making the portal evolve in the light of the language, the way of intervening, and the methodologies that we as Libera are giving ourselves under the umbrella of the Common initiative.

Through the Confiscatibene portal and our territorial action, we have developed a number of civic monitoring tools, increasingly implemented every day through the contribution of all the monitoring communities. Among the tools so far designed and made available in the sections of the portal, we report some that could be replicated in other Member States:

1. CIVIC ACCESS

In Italy is a very powerful tool that, thanks to Legislative Decree 33/2013, each citizen can use to exercise his or her right to know how each Public Administration spends our resources, organises itself internally, and makes decisions on our behalf, including the publication of data and information on confiscated assets. In Italy, the form of civic access closest to citizens is **simple civic access**: this can be invoked when the public body has not published online, in its "Transparent Administration" page, a piece of information that the law provides for as mandatory. If we are talking about confiscated assets, then the obligation of municipalities is to publish the list of those transferred to their assets, updated monthly and in open format under penalty of a sanction to the responsible manager, according to Article 48 of the Anti-Mafia Code.

At the European level, generalised civic access, or **FOIA**, can be tested. This form of access, inspired by the international regulations of the Freedom of information act, hence the acronym FOIA, and introduced by Legislative Decree no. 97 of 2016, allows specific data to be requested even when administrations are not obliged to provide it. An example would be to ask the public financing body for the list of municipalities that participated in a call for tenders for the restructuring of confiscated assets.

2. THE MONITORING REPORT

For each confiscated property, whether re-used or not, a monitoring report can be designed and written. This document, which contains a pathway articulated in different phases, is then the working basis for the monitoring



community, which can establish the public actions to be taken, from involving institutions in a process of dialogue and exchange to activating new citizens. If we try to outline the process of monitoring and writing a report, we can identify five different phases:

1. Choosing the object of the monitoring: you can decide to monitor a European project on a confiscated property (or, more generally, funding received by a public body), all the confiscated properties present in the territory of reference or even just single experiences of public and social re-use about which it is important to tell.

2. Gathering data: to make a civic monitoring process effective, it is essential to know the legal framework (national and local) and which procedures of the Public Administration are used. It is important to reconstruct the history of the object of monitoring and of the territory where it is located, taking into account all the actors that have a proactive role and are beneficiaries of the service. Based on the first data collected, a monitoring sheet can be structured, with all the indicators to be checked, and the first information found online.

3. Making a monitoring visit: the fundamental part of activating the monitoring community is the monitoring visit. With the form already set up, it is essential to check that all the information found corresponds to reality, as well as implementing the research. A monitoring visit is the moment to unleash our imagination. We have experimented with individual interviews with asset managers, bike rides through all the properties confiscated in the area, and thematic summer schools that have allowed us to experience them more deeply. The monitoring visit is really useful because it also allows us to meet the public actors involved in the confiscation and re-use process, and who can enrich the research with an institutional perspective.

4. Developing and disseminate the collected data: at the end of the monitoring visit and of the whole research phase, the monitoring community must come back and discuss everything to re-develop the collected informations and study a communication and dissemination strategy. Publication of the monitoring sheets and all the material collected during the visit can take different forms, depending on the monitoring community's characteristics and the objectives of the whole process. It is possible to use the most commonly used social channels or to imagine new forms of promotion. The aim of studying the best possible dissemination is to expand the community and recruit new volunteers. By monitoring reports, we mean that civic action is primarily aimed at producing, collecting, and sharing data about life in and on the confiscated property.



5. Checking the status of monitoring: civic monitoring is a circular process. The monitoring report should be reviewed periodically to signal progress in the project (the asset has been assigned, the association has won new projects, the public body has found a new re-use) or any criticalities that may arise.

In conclusion, we can say that performing civic monitoring, becoming part of a monitoring community are often actions that we do unconsciously, through our commitment and our daily choices.

Being a monitoring citizen means being informed, knowing one's own territory and what is going on; through encounters and common reflection, one can activate a network of citizens who decide to take care of what surrounds them and of their common goods.

Monitoring can mean deciding to take part in one of the many summer camps that Libera offers every summer all over Italy, to young people from every European country. They see with their own eyes what happens on the confiscated properties and how the third sector realities manage to transform them into common goods. This is a fundamental tool to be able to recount the experience and give new impetus to those who would like to undertake this path. In other words, we are referring to monitoring citizens' ability, which does not concern the exercise of the right to know institutional data, but brings into play the possibility to produce data and information of civic interest; i.e., all data that are not the responsibility of the Public Administration to collect, but are strategic for knowing how effectively the confiscated assets are generating change.



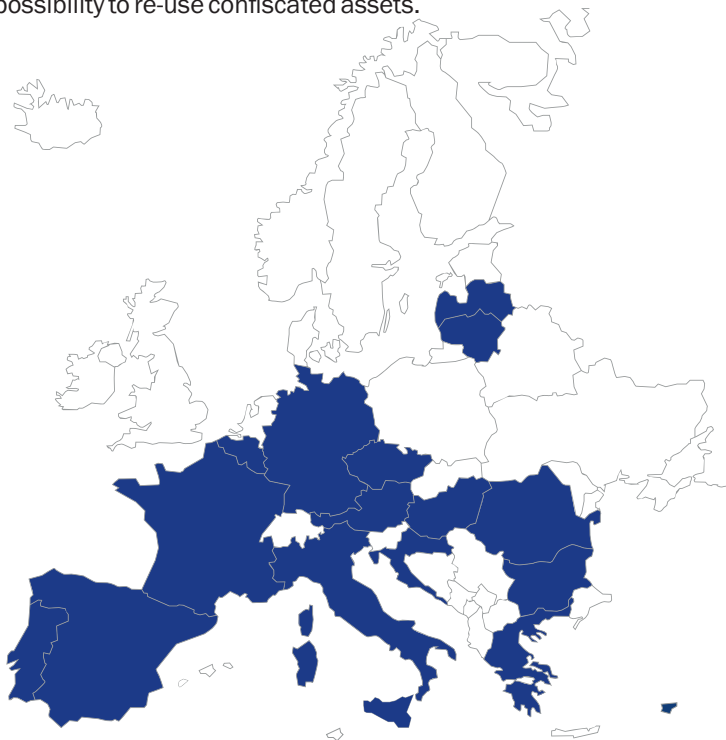
THE REPORT ON THE TRANSPOSITION OF ART. 10.3 OF THE EU DIRECTIVE 2014/42 AND THE REASONED MAPPING ON PUBLIC AND SOCIAL RE-USE

One of the main objectives of the project "Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!" is to promote the public and social re-use of confiscated goods in the EU Member States. For this reason, the first months of work engaged Libera's staff in analysing the European situation and drafting a mapping report to update public and social re-use data .



DOWNLOAD

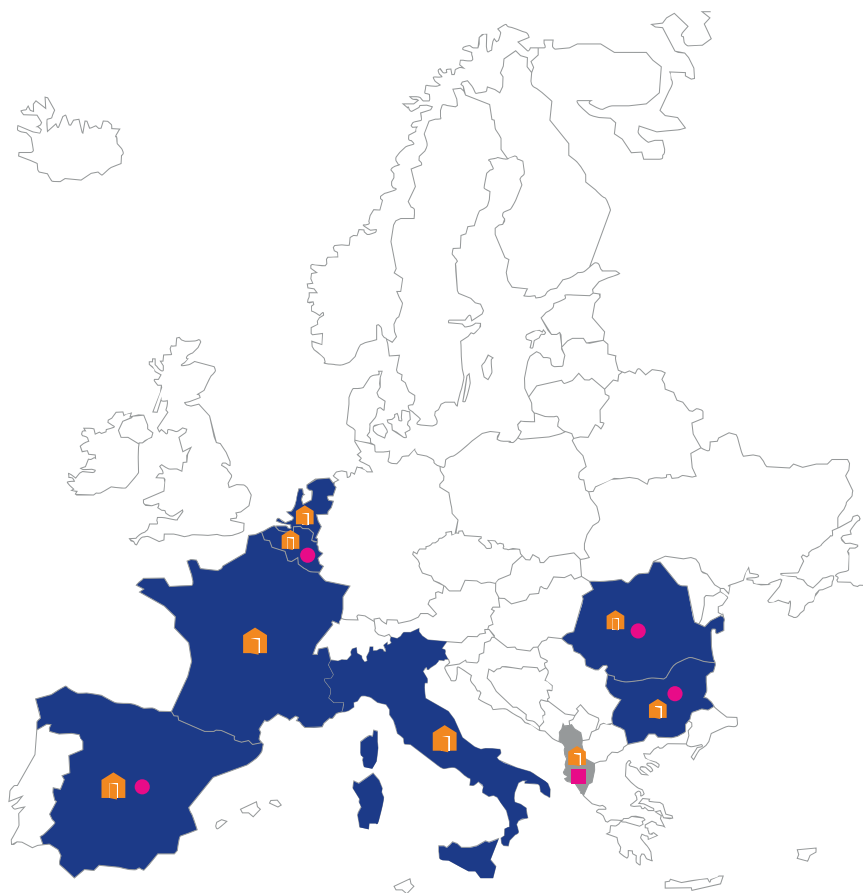
The basis for the mapping was the latest European Commission report on the implementation of Directive 42/14/EU, **"Asset recovery and confiscation: Ensuring that crime does not pay,"** which focuses specifically on art. 10.3 of this directive. The first interesting fact is that 19 out of 27 Member States have implemented the possibility to re-use confiscated assets.



The 19 member states mentioned in the European Commission's research were then the main "actors" of our report, who were given a questionnaire on three different levels:

- The implementation of Article 10.3 in national legislation
- The concrete actions taken by the institutions in the implementation of the same article
- The existence of concrete cases of public and/or social re-use of confiscated assets

Through the answers received from representatives of AROs (Asset Recovery Offices), Ministries of Justice, and police forces, it was found that although all 19 Member States have implemented Art. 10.3 in their national legislation, only 7 countries present concrete cases of public and/or social re-use of confiscated assets.



PUBLIC AND SOCIAL RE-USE OF CONFISCATED PROPERTY: A TOOL TO UNDERSTAND THE TERRITORY

Starting from the experience of the monitoring communities born here in Italy, also in the path of "Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!," it was fundamental to start from the in-depth knowledge of the four Member States involved, through two different monitoring sheets.

The first sheet aims to collect basic national information on the presence of confiscated properties on the territory, through the available institutional and/or non-formal datasets.

In the second part of the document, detailed questions are asked to provide an overview of case studies of confiscated assets already re-used publicly or socially.

From the results of the compilation of this monitoring sheet, storytelling can be built to broaden the dissemination of this information, but above all to stimulate the community's democratic participation in imagining possible similar solutions in other contexts.





APPENDIX

MONITORING SHEET FOR CASE STUDIES

*This sheet is designed for action A1.2 **Monitoring of public and social re-use experiences of confiscated property and creation of a national team of monitoring actors.***

*The objective of this activity is to experiment with a civic monitoring path to be able to identify the **two study cases** by country, which will also be used in the subsequent actions.*

Some of these questions may be filled out through online searches, but to have a complete and interesting story we ask you to try to contact the reality you are describing to us and ask a few more questions



BASIC INFORMATION ON CONFISCATED ASSETS

The first step to analyse how many and what assets are confiscated in your territory is to visit governmental websites and find out what information can be obtained. This first part will help us to draw a more defined frame and let you discover where the confiscated assets are.

Enter here the link of the governmental websites you have visited and what information you have been able to obtain:

LINK TO THE SITE	TYPE OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE	RESEARCH OUTCOME

1. Case study of a confiscated asset already re-used

Now we start with the report on the practice of social re-use that you have found.

You can start filling out the form through your internet searches (official website of the managing body, FB page, newspaper articles, promotional videos, or other); it would be more effective if you could directly contact the people responsible for the re-use practice that you have decided to report about to help you compile and get the best account of their work.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ORGANISATION

Full Name

Type of managing body (voluntary association, social cooperative, foundation, NGO):

General description of the activities (max 10 lines):

Registered Office:

Contacts (email, phone, website, social network profiles):

ASSET TYPE

How many confiscated assets does the organisation manage?

Asset types managed:

Size of assets managed:	
LEGAL DATA	
Description of the criminal history of the asset:	
Court responsible for seizure and confiscation:	
Possible involvement of foreign police forces:	
Administrative acts issued for confiscation:	
ACTIVITIES	
What activities does the managing body carry out within confiscated assets?	
PRESS REVIEW	
Are there online articles, videos, or even posts on different social networks that tell the story of the asset and the activities carried out? Insert here the links you can find.	
2. Case study of a confiscated asset that could host a re-use project	
LEGAL DATA	
Description of the asset's criminal history:	
Court responsible for seizure and confiscation:	
Possible involvement of foreign police forces:	
Administrative confiscation acts issued:	
ASSET TYPE	
Size of the asset	



DESCRIPTION OF THE ASSOCIATION ENVIRONMENT



Briefly describe which associations operate in the territory where the asset is located



ACTIVITIES



What activities could be useful to the community that lives in the territory where the asset is located?



PRESS REVIEW



Are there online articles, videos, or even posts on different social networks that tell the story of the asset? Insert here the links you can find.



COHESION POLICIES: AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY INCLUSION

WHAT IS A COHESION POLICY?

Economic and social cohesion, as defined by the Single European Act of 1986, aims to "reduce disparities between the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions." The most recent EU Treaty, the Lisbon Treaty, adds a third dimension and speaks of "economic, social and territorial cohesion." Cohesion policy should therefore promote a more balanced and sustainable "territorial development," a broader concept than regional policy, which is linked to the ERDF and operates specifically at regional level.

Cohesion policy provides the policy framework underpinning hundreds of thousands of projects across Europe that receive funding through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), and the Cohesion Fund (targeting EU Member States with a GDP below 90 % of the EU 26 average, not including Croatia).

The **Partnership Agreement**, forwarded by the European Union at the end of the formal negotiations, is the national programming tool for the European Structural and Investment Funds; it sets out the modalities to ensure that there is an alignment between the EU strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific missions of each fund; the provisions to ensure the effective implementation of the European Investment Funds; the provisions for the partnership principle and an indicative list of partners.

In Italy, this document contains references and indications on the issue of confiscation of assets from organised crime and their public and social re-use.

Among the tools that Italy has developed, it is essential to mention the **OpenCoesione** web portal. This experience was created to strengthen a more efficient and effective use of resources and destination of funds consistent with people's needs improve decision making and policy design, also by increasing access to and quality of information increasing involvement of



stakeholders and civic partners broadening the opportunities for analyses and evaluations on relevant policy issues encouraging the creation of new tools and services based on the availability of open data.

THE 2014-2020 PROGRAMMING IN ITALY AND THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF ASSETS CONFISCATED FROM THE MAFIAS

Within the 2014-2020 programming period, there are two Thematic Objectives that have closely concerned the theme of confiscated assets, their public and social re-use, and enhancement in the territorial contexts.

Thematic Objective 9 and Expected Result 9.6 > Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty and all forms of discrimination (the action of this OT is implemented by stimulating the design capacity, sensitivity, and action for social inclusion issues of the third sector, promoting collaboration between the public and private sectors)

Thematic Objective 11 and Expected Result 11.5 > Strengthening the institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and an efficient public administration (support to the actions of the National Agency for Confiscated and Seized Assets and of the different territorial public bodies involved, to make confiscated assets and companies a growth driver towards an alternative development model).

As written in the **datacard** published by OpenCoesione on **21 March 2021**, as of 31 December 2020, 415 projects on confiscated assets have been analysed, for a total value of public funding of € 273.21 million.

Seventy-eight per cent of the resources, almost € 215 million, are provided under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), to a total of 300 projects. Most of the investments and projects are concentrated in the regions of the *Mezzogiorno*, and in particular in Sicily for 84.80 million euros (151 projects), Campania 82.53 million euros (99 projects), and Calabria 48.64 million euros (84 projects).

Libera, as a representative body of the world of associations, participated in the consultations for the writing of the **National Strategy for the enhancement of confiscated properties**: an instrument of coordination, guidance, and support for state administrations, local authorities, and all those entities that, in various ways, intervene in the management of confiscated assets with enhancement projects, also leveraging the support of cohesion policies with the aim of returning the use of these assets to the community by offering development opportunities to the territories. For this reason, the 2017 Budget Law provided for the adoption of a document and allocated €5 million over two years (together with other resources activated



by European Union programmes for the 2014-2020 programming); the aim is to define a national strategy that includes:

- the planning of interventions
- the monitoring phase
- the verification of results

The document was approved by CIPE and became operational in March 2019.

The Strategy recognises the symbolic and structural value of confiscated assets and makes them possible objects of enhancement and restructuring projects. The most marginal areas can represent an experimental context in this process.

This is where a significant part of the resources spent to enhance them are concentrated: out of 228 municipalities with re-use projects financed by European funds, only 13 per cent concern urban areas and provincial capitals (33 cases¹). In this case, confiscation should be read outside the criminal law perspective, as a mere conclusive phase and completion of a policy to indirectly fight mafias. It is rather an opportunity for synergy between local administrations and civil society, between the public and the private sector, an opportunity to improve participation and the quality of local democracy.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY IN ITALY

The General objective of the Italian strategy is the effective and efficient re-use of organised crime confiscated properties and businesses through enhancement interventions supported by cohesion policies.

There are Three action pillars (Specific Objectives):

1. Institutional management and cooperation capacity (transparency of information, relevance of citizens' monitoring and best practices of management and social re-use).

2. Infrastructures

Use organised crime confiscated properties (real estate) to enhance and qualify public services for citizens and local communities and to create new jobs.

3. Companies

Support the transition to legality of organised crime confiscated companies thus safeguarding the employment of workers, through the use of an integrated system of services and incentives.

¹source: OpenCoesione www.opencoesione.it



It's also important to mention the **Plan for the recovery and re-use of exemplary confiscated assets**: the 2014-2020 national cohesion resources to finance investments for the re-use of confiscated properties relevant in terms of size, symbolic value, criminal history, sustainability, and development prospects, that require a supra-local direction and commitment for preserving their value.

PARTICIPATION AT THE TABLE OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT FORUM ITALY

The **Open Government Forum** is an international initiative for the promotion of open government, led in Italy by the Department of Public Administration since 2011, and now at the stage of evaluating the fourth national action plan and defining the next document. The working group brings together representatives of civil society, academia, businesses and associations interested in open administration issues and wishing to participate actively in their implementation. Thanks to the commitment of Libera and OnData, through the *confiscatibene.it* web portal and with the territorial work of civic monitoring and training on transparency issues, the theme of confiscated assets has been included in the **IV Italian Open Government action plan**.

Together with the Department for Cohesion Policies and the National Agency for the Administration and Destination of Confiscated Assets, 10 commitments have been drawn up, in which Libera will be protagonist with three macro actions:

1. activation of wikidata collection workshops and civic vigilance on putting institutional datasets online, starting with the major national portals working on the theme of confiscated assets and their enhancement;
2. three monitoring reports on social re-use practices implemented through cohesion policy funds in Italy, and which are oriented towards the reintegration of women victims of violence into the labour market;
3. two participatory design workshops to write a strategy for the social re-use of confiscated property, involving the community, active civil society, and relevant institutions.



INITIAL GUIDE OUTLINE FOR MAPPING INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF CONFISCATION POLICIES

Confiscated assets are tools to foster greater cohesion between territories and increase social inclusion in our communities.

We have written about this several times, in the previous pages, and even more so we have made this assumption as a working basis for the **"Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!"** project.

The first request of this second monitoring sheet is to define the legal framework of each Member State, starting from the regional level up to the national legislation, on the topic of the fight against organised crime and the confiscation and re-use of criminals' assets. In addition to this group of questions, entries have been included that relate directly to cohesion policies and the different regional and development funds that have been programmed in each State.

The objective of the **Country information sheet** is, therefore, to trace the path for an advocacy action of civil society, which does not stop only at the analysis of the situation, but can then bring concrete requests for support to those who could engage in the public and social re-use of confiscated assets.





APPENDIX

COUNTRY INFORMATION SHEET



Country:	Item	Main data and sources	*Output (links, documents)	
Political and economic context	Data on national poverty	What is the estimated population living below the threshold of poverty?	Table with data	
	Municipalities with confiscated property	What is the unemployment situation (women, youth, regional gaps)?	Table with data	
Governance	Competent regional council	Which national authority manages European funds and cohesion policy funds?	List with information and links consulted	
	Responsible committees	Is there a competent authority for the administration and disposal of confiscated property to SOC?	List with information and links consulted/source	
	Presence of <i>ad hoc</i> institutions	Search for any Agencies, Observatories, Foundations, or other public or participatory bodies specifically dedicated to the issue of confiscation and social re-use	List with information and links consulted/source	
Regulation	Regional Laws	Laws or other national legislation dedicated to “confiscation” or SOC.	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with law files	
	Regional Laws on Urban Safety	Laws or other national legislation dedicated to the use of European funds and cohesion policy funds.	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with law files	
	National and/or regional plans	Partnership agreements for programming periods 2014/2020 and 2021/2027 (including the conclusions of the working groups)	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with Plans and Documents files	
	Other documents	If we find other national or local guidelines of interest on SOC, confiscation, and urban safety issues we can put them in a separate file.	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with Plans and Documents files	
Financing Activities	Regional tenders and funding programmes	Search for any Regional Tenders and Funding Programmes funded by European funds and/or cohesion policies.	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with Regional tenders and funding programmes	
	European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) tenders and funding programmes	Search for any Regional Tenders and Funding Programmes financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 (that is ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF and, for 2014-2020, the Fund for Development and Cohesion - FDC)	List with information and links consulted/source + folder with Regional tenders and funding programmes	
*Note: For each output you can think of a word page with “Notes” to report all anomalies, curiosities, methodological choices, peculiar sources, and any other information not provided by the guide outline.				

THE GME! SUMMER SCHOOL IN PALERMO

The summer school has been provided a three-day training in Palermo (Sicily, Italy) from 7 to 10 July 2021 for 8 European representatives of the monitoring teams from Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, and Spain

The main objective has been to define and to experiment with a toolkit on the monitoring of confiscated property experiences intended for public and/or social purposes, to be tested for the first time during the summer school through a pilot project.

Meeting together after more than a year of health emergencies was very intense: it was a unique opportunity to compare very different Member States and territorial needs; we had the chance to talk about the work carried out by each national team, the results achieved and the obstacles that were faced during the compilation of the forms.

Each participant reported on the analysis carried out during the first months of the project and also ideas of future perspectives for paths of this kind. After learning about the toolkit during the summer school, upon return to their country of origin, operators will proceed to implement the tool developed for collection of data on the diverse experiences of social and public re-use of confiscated assets on which analysing the possible use of Cohesion Policies funds to enhance them, supported through remote tutoring.

The **first day** of work was entirely dedicated to the theme of cohesion policies and civic monitoring of funded projects, with particular reference to the issue of confiscated assets. We reflected with Simona De Luca from the Department for Cohesion Policies and Gianmarco Guazzo, from the project team "A Scuola di OpenCoesione," focusing on the role of schools in the monitoring of European funds.

Together with Leonardo Ferrante, coordinator of the Common school programme (from Gruppo Abele and Libera), we analysed the process of creation and support of a monitoring community, starting from the contribution of students and volunteers, to the continuous dialogue with national and local institutions.



There will be an **all-day field visit** in which we will hear the testimonies of **Cantina Centopassi** and **Libera Mediterraneo Consortium**, the first experience in Italy of social re-use of confiscated land.

In the afternoon, the national teams met the manager of the **Scout Base Volpe Astuta**, an experience of social re-use of confiscated assets, enhanced with the Italian Cohesion fund.



HOW TO EMPOWER A COMMUNITY

The final phase of the "**Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!**" project looks to the future of our actions as a European network and relaunches projects that can be put into the field in the coming years.

We decided to reshape a classic "business model canvas," rewriting it based on the stimuli we received during the summer school in Palermo. We created a useful tool for civil society organisations, to imagine and design social re-use of public space or a confiscated property in your area.

The **participatory design** and then monitoring of these projects will already create a community within it, ready to accept new challenges.

The idea behind the creation of a **social canvas** is to create a guide, which can become a tool for face-to-face meetings or for working remotely in small groups, starting from the information gathered in the previous two sheets to create a project. It is not necessary to detail all the different stages right from the start, but above all to create the social and territorial context of reference that can welcome the proposal for commitment and change.

This is how the different steps could be summarised:

- **THE FRAMEWORK, THE PROBLEM, THE SPACE**

With the help of statistical research, in-depth journalistic analysis, and institutional reports, it is possible to draw a precise picture of how our territory lives; the Country Information Sheet is the summary document of this research. Moreover, confiscated assets are useful tools to understand the territory, to understand how deep the criminal presence is; which are the activities in which there are infiltrations.

- **THE NETWORK, THE RESOURCES, THE TARGETS**

To be able to activate real change processes, a map is needed of all the actors



involved in the confiscation and destination process, but not only those. Institutions managing European funds or other types of funding, other NGOs involved in supporting citizenship in different forms, even foreign partners who have skills useful to our objective should be included.

Creating a relationship is necessary to make the planning action as incisive as possible: every reality of the non-profit sector, with its volunteers and daily activities is an inexhaustible source of energy and new needs!

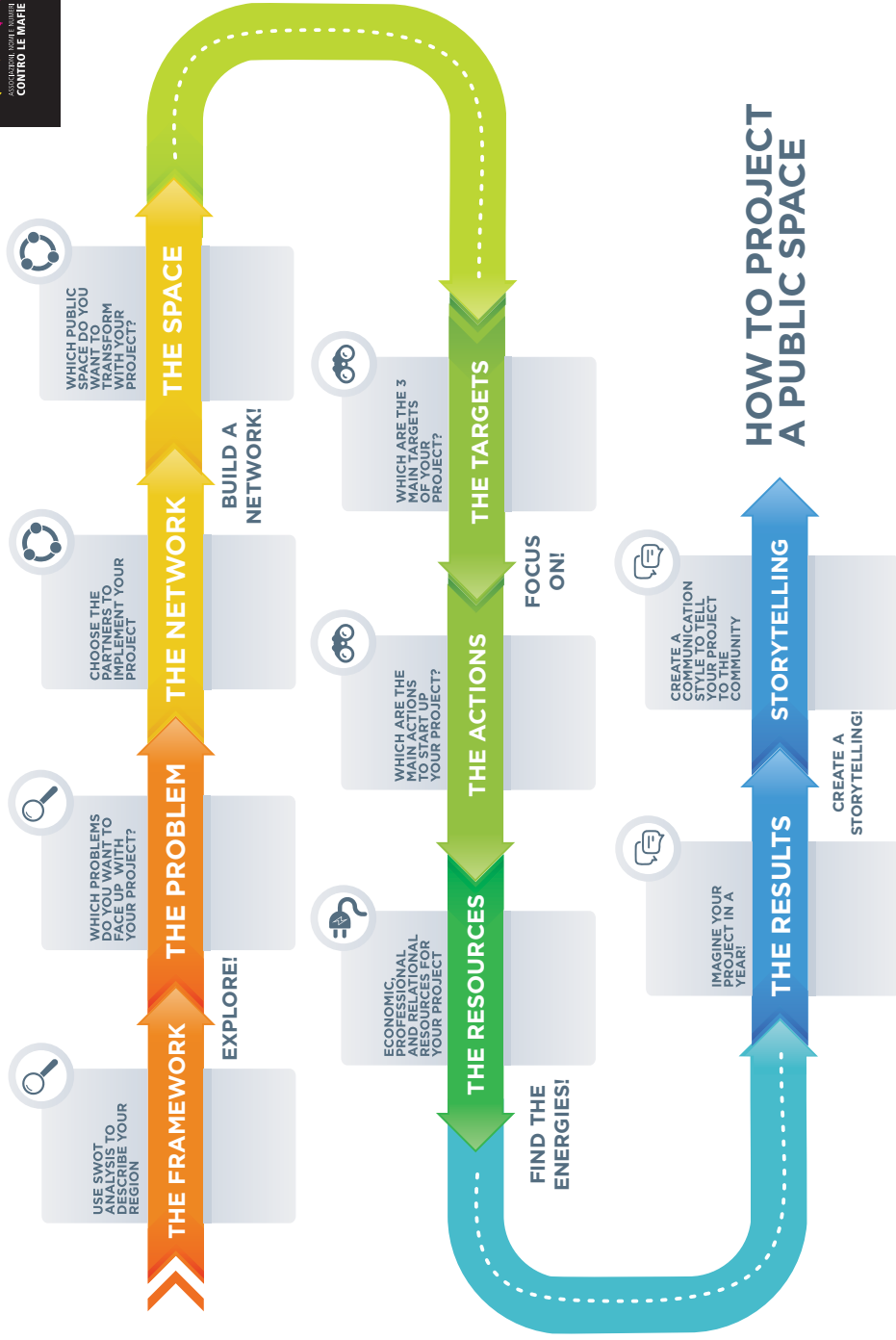
- **THE ACTIONS, THE RESULTS, STORYTELLING**

After getting to know the area better and building stable networks, the community becomes the real protagonist of the project. What are the wishes, needs, dreams and futures that each of us imagines? How can we bring them closer?

This is the direction in which we must direct our actions, which may develop over several stages and even for very long periods; we must know how to recount each step of our project, to broaden the recipients and to intercept new subjects who can become a network and a target at the same time.



PARTICIPATORY PLANNING FORM



A GRAPHIC PRESENTATION OF 3 SUMMER SCHOOL PROJECTS

GROUP 1

USE SWOT ANALYSIS TO
DESCRIBE YOUR REGION

THE FRAMEWORK

Weaknesses and Threats

Low awareness of Organised Crime
Unemployment rate of 15.4%
School dropout rates high
Social housing shortage for refugees
Organised Crime presence and corruption

Opportunities and Strengths

Empowerment of Social policy
Public funding for cultures
Engagement of Public entities and Dialogue
with authorities
Growth of CSO and NGOs
Presence of EUROBUBBLE in Brussels (network
and staff)

WHICH PROBLEMS DO YOU
WANT TO FACE UP WITH
YOUR PROJECT?

THE PROBLEM

The housing paradox

CHOOSE THE PARTNERS TO
IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT

THE NETWORK

Housing needs and building presence

CPAS/OCMW, Communa and
Samenlevingsopbouw; other NGOs on vacant
assets and social housing; COSC (ARO and AMO
office).

**Territory needs (social, economic, urban),
environmental and criminal problems** local
authorities involved in inclusion policies; civil
society organisations; federal police
**Administrative and legislative needs, logistic
economic opportunities** Regie fonciere,
Regional department on cohesion funds,
incubators of social enterprises and NGOs,
foundations.

WHICH PUBLIC SPACE DO YOU WANT TO TRANSFORM WITH YOUR PROJECT?

THE SPACE

Belgium - Brussels

WHICH ARE THE 3 MAIN TARGETS OF YOUR PROJECT?

THE TARGETS

1. Providing social housing solutions
2. Urban social development
3. Public resources efficiency

WHICH ARE THE MAIN ACTIONS TO START UP YOUR PROJECT?

THE ACTIONS

Phase 1

Data access and mapping the presence of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), in collaboration with federal police; the main question is: which organisations are present in the territories?;

Effects and consequences of the SOC in the territories the question for COSC is: wher SOC invest?;

The territory's needs listening CPAS/OCMW and local NGOs

Phase 2

- Presentation of the results and meeting key partners

Phase 3

- Presentation of the results and public meeting with all the stakeholders

ECONOMIC, PROFESSIONAL AND RELATIONAL RESOURCES FOR YOUR PROJECT

THE RESOURCES

Economic

cohesion funds, other EU and local funds

Professional

partners and institutions

Relational

network, media, outsource

IMAGINE YOUR PROJECT IN A YEAR!

THE RESULTS STORYTELLING

Results 1. Building confiscated and re-used assets; **2.** providing housing; **3.** providing job opportunities; **4.** providing services to the local community

Storytelling Meeting, local communities, present the project, ask for feedback; open door to present the project to: population, public admin, politician (EU, nation, local); website and social media campaign, promotion through local media.

GROUP 2

USE SWOT ANALYSIS TO
DESCRIBE YOUR REGION

THE FRAMEWORK

Weaknesses and Threats

Many disadvantages and social disparity
Lack of education (school dropout)
People that move away from Sofia
Floods storm

Opportunities and Strengths

Priority to use cohesion funds
Agricultural riches and good environment
Accessibility by train
Folklore: typical cuisine, cultural traditions

WHICH PROBLEMS DO YOU
WANT TO FACE UP WITH
YOUR PROJECT?

THE PROBLEM

Lack of future prospects for orphans and
young people

CHOOSE THE PARTNERS TO
IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT

THE NETWORK

Municipality, city council, schools in Sofia,
BILLA supermarket chain

WHICH PUBLIC SPACE DO YOU
WANT TO TRANSFORM WITH
YOUR PROJECT?

THE SPACE

Old factories in the periphery



WHICH ARE THE 3 MAIN
TARGETS OF YOUR PROJECT?

THE TARGETS

1. Provide housing and education for local orphans
2. Create job opportunities and economic development
3. Promote and preserve nature and cultural heritage

WHICH ARE THE MAIN ACTIONS
TO START UP YOUR PROJECT?

THE ACTIONS

Phase 1

- Apply for funding (cohesion fund, tourism and education call to action)

Phase 2

- Creation of a “consortium” (advisory board with representatives from civil society, municipality, Government authorities involved in).

Phase 3

- Creation of a renewable eco-space, composed of a housing area/learning area/professional kitchen/ bike shop/dormitories and a big rest area/classes for the Waldorf education system.

GROUP 2

USE SWOT ANALYSIS TO
DESCRIBE YOUR REGION

THE FRAMEWORK

Weaknesses and Threats

The relevance of the region is its important industry based on wine and milk.

The institutions have resources.

As the institutions have money to spend on social purposes, there are many opportunities to develop social projects.

Opportunities and Strengths

There are several ethnic groups, Romas among them. This group lives in ghettos, with a low level of integration in the population.

There is a high level of criminality.

This ethnic group's members lack confidence in institutions, and in the rest of the population, has a low level of education, and a high level of criminality, and conflicts among different ethnic groups.

WHICH PROBLEMS DO YOU
WANT TO FACE UP WITH
YOUR PROJECT?

THE PROBLEM

Roma children usually don't go to school: they don't have the same opportunities as the average population, they are not able to get normal jobs, nor live normal lives; they cannot be integrated in the society. This lack of education contributes to keeping them in marginality.

The problem increases if they are children with disabilities.

We want to cover not only the intellectual aspect of the problem but also the "personal" one, for instance, to promote relationship and communication abilities.

So we want to focus our efforts to provide these children with a proper education so they can have a better future.

CHOOSE THE PARTNERS TO
IMPLEMENT YOUR PROJECT

THE NETWORK

First of all, we have to count on the municipalities of Sliven and Burgas. They already have a department dedicated to this ethnic group.

We count on the social services because we need workers, and specifically, educators, teachers, psychologists, and health mediators

We can count on different educational associations and also Roma people associations. And finally, we would like to count on the Bulgarian Ministry of Education

WHICH PUBLIC SPACE DO YOU
WANT TO TRANSFORM WITH
YOUR PROJECT?

THE SPACE

We have found a beautiful little building in Sliven (Bulgaria), in good condition, a confiscated asset. It is perfect as a school. It has a big playground, a garden, a big kitchen and dining room, and big rooms perfect as classrooms.

We also have identified another house near the beach, in Burgas (Bulgaria). It can serve as a summer camp for the children. Almost none have ever seen the sea.

WHICH ARE THE 3 MAIN
TARGETS OF YOUR PROJECT?

THE TARGETS

- 1.** Get children out of the criminal future they have now. Their family involves them in the family criminal business from an early age.
- 2.** Provide a good quality and proper education. This is the only way to provide them opportunities to exit the vicious circle.
- 3.** Cover the children's intellectual and emotional health.

WHICH ARE THE MAIN ACTIONS
TO START UP YOUR PROJECT?

THE ACTIONS

Phase 1

Build the idea and the framework of the project. We have to talk to the Roma leaders to explain the project and convince them of its benefits. We need them to collaborate.

Phase 2

Look for the physical structures we need: two buildings. For that we search in the confiscated assets database, finally choosing those which fit in.

Phase 3

Sort a list of the people we need to work on the project and make a provisional budget

ECONOMIC, PROFESSIONAL
AND RELATIONAL RESOURCES
FOR YOUR PROJECT

THE RESOURCES

As a social purpose project, we will try to involve the municipalities on it and other institutions, like social services and the Ministry of education

Also, we can contact other associations to join us in this project; maybe they cannot give money, but can offer people to work. We can talk with private investors or private companies, (we offer the project as a part of its corporate social responsibility).

IMAGINE YOUR PROJECT
IN A YEAR!

THE RESULTS STORYTELLING

In the beginning, we will have few children. They usually are very happy because they can be learning things, playing, having fun, and eating good food. The parents are also pleased because the children are happy and cared for. After the first years, the project will have more and more children and the project will be implemented in other areas of the country. We will use social media to spread the word

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN STRATEGY TO ENHANCE CONFISCATED ASSETS THROUGH COHESION POLICY

Starting from the results of the project **"Good(s) Monitoring, Europe!"**, Libera proposes a path towards the outlining of a **European strategy for the enhancement of confiscated properties through cohesion policies**. The main actors in this process, active citizenship and public institutions, will have to take steps together, in their own territories and then in European decision-making bodies.

These are our proposals towards a European Strategy for the enhancement of confiscated properties through cohesion policies :

1 Accompanying Member States in incorporating into national legislation the public and social re-use of assets confiscated from organised crime and corruption crimes, as a tool for community empowerment and social inclusion.

2 Pushing for consultations with the economic and social partnership for the definition of the national partnership agreement, with particular reference to Civil Society Organisations dealing with human rights and social justice, then identifying a common national body for the management of funds for the fight against organised crime and for public and social re-use.



3 Engaging in an ongoing cooperation with AROs and AMO offices, in coordination with European Commission and Europol, which will be able to provide a comprehensive picture of available confiscated resources throughout Europe; improving training and exchanges of good practices for civil servants and representatives of Civil Society Organisations through the relevant institutions.

4 Identifying common objectives for Member States' objectives on social and territorial cohesion at European level with a specific focus on the public and social re-use of confiscated spaces for the benefit of vulnerable communities and citizens as a whole.

5 Setting up a system for monitoring and evaluating the results achieved with the funding of social projects for enhancement of confiscated assets at national level, with standards and indicators of results valid at supranational level.





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