**4th RECOVER workshop – Press release “Hard cases in implementation of the EU Regulation no. 1805/2018” (29.11.2023)**

**RECOVER – JUST-2022-JCOO – GA no. 101091375**

On Wednesday 29th November 2023, the 4th workshop of the project RECOVER (Mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders between efficiency and the rule of law), was held both physically and online on the platform Microsoft Teams, with the participation of all the Partners, the members of the advisory and monitoring boards and other external experts. It focused on the practical implementation of the EU Regulation no. 1805/2018 (hereinafter, the REG),

Prof. E.U. Savona hold the opening address, emphasizing the workshop's commitment to tackling hard cases. Subsequently, Prof. A.M. Maugeri expressed her gratitude for the transmission of international reports, laying the groundwork for a collaborative and insightful workshop.

Professor Maugeri's introduction underscored the pivotal importance of the workshop, outlining its primary objectives. The overarching goal was to provide a nuanced understanding of the current practical issues arising in the application of the Reg. across the 10 Member States. The Professor emphasized the multifaceted challenges, particularly those related to the translation and completeness of freezing/confiscation certificates, and the divergent types of orders embedded in national legislations. The workshop's mission, as elucidated by Professor Maugeri, extended beyond problem identification. It aimed to stimulate an open dialogue and constructive debate among participants to collectively propose solutions. The intent was to develop a comprehensive set of good practices, guidelines, and reform proposals that would usher in tangible improvements to the application of the Reg. across Member States, ultimately fostering mutual trust and recognition.

Ms S. Fonte, Team Leader at Eurojust, delivered a comprehensive presentation on Eurojust's indispensable role in asset recovery cases. The report encompassed Eurojust's casework in asset recovery, delving into identification, freezing, confiscation, and restitution/compensation of shared assets. A salient point emphasized Eurojust's coordination and collaboration with national agencies and ministries across multiple jurisdictions. Particular attention was devoted to legal challenges and best practices encountered in cases coordinated by Eurojust. Topics included asset tracing, the benefits of interdisciplinary approaches, and the crucial importance of early consultations between competent authorities. A compelling example illustrated Eurojust's effective support during the simultaneous execution of multiple freezing orders from various countries, showcasing the practical significance of the organization.

During the workshop, Prof. Maugeri invited the participants to take the floor for the presentation of National reports. Partners from Italy (Dr Michele Fini and Mr Federico Perrone Capano – Italian Ministry of Justice), Bulgaria (Ms Vanya Ilieva – General Prosecutor’s Office), Germany (Ms Anna Sakellaraki and Mr Till Bettels – Humboldt University), Netherlands (Ms Janne Lise de Boer and Mr Robert van der Ende – General Prosecutor’s Office), Poland (Mr Przemyslaw Szymanski – Polish Ministry of Justice), Spain (Mr José Miguel Compañy – General Prosecutor’s Office), Romania (Mr Eduard-Gabriel Levai and Ms Alis Scutaru-Sandru – ANABI), took the floor and presented their national reports, explaining specific hard cases where some issues raised.

After each of these presentations there was a lively debate among the Partners and all the participants, which substantially contributed to identifying the most relevant and recurring practical problems and obstacles in the implementation of the Reg., meditating on the possible solutions and good practices to be adopted in order to improve the praxis and strengthen mutual trust and mutual recognition. In the next weeks, we will continue to update you on the upcoming activities of the project and on the results that the consortium will achieve... Stay tuned!