

RECOVER (GA 101091375) – PRESS RELEASE 6th Workshop*“AROs' Activities and Pre-evaluation of the Opportunity of Mutual Recognition Procedure”**June 19th, 2024*

The sixth workshop of the RECOVER project was held online on June 19, 2024, and focused on “AROs' Activities and Pre-evaluation of the Opportunity for Mutual Recognition Procedure.” Professor E. Savona (Transcrime – UCSC) inaugurated the session by discussing the internationalization of organized crime in Europe. Following his introduction, Mr. Anastasio (Transcrime – UCSC) presented data about the execution of asset recovery and confiscation abroad. He also outlined the workshop's main agenda: the procedural steps for recognizing confiscation and freezing orders, and the collaboration between judicial and police AROs within each country.

Professor Savona welcomed the first speaker, Colonel Ribaldo (Service for International Police Cooperation – Italian Ministry of the Interior), who emphasized the necessity of uniform information across Member States and highlighted the challenges in data collection efficiency. Ms. Heleri Radma (Prosecutor's Office of Estonia) detailed Estonia's asset recovery process and the judicial cooperation challenges, followed by a discussion on the interplay between data quality and procedural standards in Estonia.

Professors Laura Scomparin and Oscar Calavita (University of Turin) discussed the "Project Force," outlining the regulatory implementation challenges and proposing recommendations. Ms. Anita Androva – Bayrakova (Supreme Prosecutor's Office, Bulgaria) spoke on the application of the Reg (EU) 2018/1805 in Bulgaria.

After a coffee break, Professor A. M. Maugeri (University of Catania, Coordinator of the RECOVER Project) offered an extensive presentation on the EU regulation on asset recovery and introduced the new Directive 2024/11260. Professor Savona then invited participants to present their national reports. Contributions came from Italy (Mr. Michele Fini and Ms. Diana Russo – Ministry of Justice) and the Netherlands (Ms. Janne Lise – General Prosecutor's Office).

The afternoon session featured reports from Germany (Mr. T. Stengler - ARO Police and Ms. Anna Sakellaraki - Humboldt University), Portugal (Mr. João Conde Correia – General Prosecutor's Office), Romania (ANABI - Asset Recovery Office), and Spain (Mr. Francisco Jiménez Villarejo Fernández – General Prosecutor's Office). Experts from Ukraine (Mr. V. Zhornytskyi – Head of International Department of ARMA) and Moldova (Mr. V. Racu - National Anticorruption Center) provided an overview of asset recovery and the roles of the responsible authorities.

Throughout the workshop, numerous discussions and comments were exchanged among the partners and participants. In the coming weeks, we will provide updates on the project's next activities... Stay tuned!