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RECOVER (GA 101091375) – PRESS RELEASE 7th Workshop

**“The management of frozen and confiscated assets abroad & third parties’ rights”
July 11th, 2024 (MsTeams)**

The seventh workshop of the RECOVER project took place online via Microsoft Teams on July 11, 2024. It focused on “The Management of Frozen and Confiscated Assets Abroad & Third Parties’ Rights”. This event was prominently led by Prof. Ernesto Savona from Transcrime, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, who emphasized the critical need to adhere to the Regulation, especially highlighting the disparities between data regarding assets confiscated abroad and those within the national territory. Following his opening remarks, Mr. Matteo Anastasio, also from Transcrime, provided a detailed overview of the specific provisions outlined in Regulation 2018/1805 concerning the management of frozen and confiscated assets. Prof. Anna Maria Maugeri of the University of Catania, the Coordinator for the RECOVER Project, delved into the pivotal aspects of asset management as delineated in the new Directive (EU) no. 2024/1260.

During the morning session, representatives from Spain (General Prosecutor’s Office), Italy (Ministry of Justice), the Netherlands (General Prosecutor’s Office), and Portugal (General Prosecutor’s Office and Asset Management Office) shared the procedures involved in the management of assets confiscated abroad, offering a comparative perspective. This session fostered an initial discussion among the partners, followed by a coffee break.

Post-break, the forum welcomed insights from Germany (Humboldt University) and Poland (Ministry of Justice and Asset Management Office), with Poland particularly noting the frequent involvement of bitcoins in seizure procedures. The afternoon session began with insights from AGRASC, France (Mr. M. Fohlen), followed by presentations from Romania (Mr. Levai, Romanian National Agency for the Management of Seized Assets) and Bulgaria on their respective asset management strategies.

Romania notably shared data on seized virtual currencies.

After a brief coffee interval, Prosecutor Antonio Balsamo from the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation provided an extensive review of Italy’s approach to managing assets confiscated abroad. The workshop concluded with insightful presentations from Ukrainian (Ms. Savichieva, ARMA Ukraine) and Moldovan (Mr. Calpajiu, Head of the Asset Evaluation, Management and Disposal Directorate) experts, who shared their experiences and practices in asset management within their jurisdictions.

The event was marked by interactive exchanges among the partners and participants throughout the day.

In the coming weeks we will provide updates on the project’s next activities... Stay tuned!