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**Press release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RECOVER dissemination workshop on  
“Discussing and Sharing RECOVER’s Results. The mutual recognition of confiscation  
against legal persons. The role of ARO's and the management of frozen and  
confiscated assets”**

**(platform MsTeams, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024)**

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

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2024, the 2<sup>nd</sup> RECOVER Workshop on “Discussing and Sharing RECOVER’s Results” was held online. The RECOVER Project, co-founded by the Justice Programme of the European Union (2021 – 2027) focuses on the harmonisation of freezing and confiscation orders across Member States, especially under the regulations of the European Union (EU).

The opening session started with some insights on the results of the Project by Professor Anna Maria Maugeri (Coordinator of the Project, University of Catania and Dr. Francisco Jimenez-Villarejo Fernandez, Head of the General Prosecutor’s Office in Spain: the results have been discussed and debated among the participants in the Workshop.

The session focused on the application of the Reg. (EU) 2018/1805 to legal persons and enterprises: Dr. Francisco Jimenez-Villarejo Fernandez, gave a presentation focused on confiscation towards legal persons in light of the Directive (EU) n. 2024/1260 which gave rise to a debate with the participants in the Workshop. Professor Anna Maria Maugeri Professor Maugeri then described the results of the research activities conducted during the Project, starting from the reform proposals and then shifting to policy recommendations and guidelines.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Workshop focused on the Asset Recovery Offices’ activities and management of frozen and confiscated assets. Mr. Matteo Anastasio gave a presentation about the results of the Project in this regard and Mr. Eduard Gabriel Levai (Romania's National Agency for the Management of Seized Assets - ANABI) presented the results of his research on Directive 1260/2024, a key step for asset recovery and confiscation in the EU. Professor Maugeri then opened the debate by stressing that the use of Asset Recovery Offices (AROs) in criminal proceedings is crucial and that there is a need to raise awareness of their role.

The debate among partners and all participants through the Workshop was fruitful, confirming the need for continued cooperation and dialogue.

The Project is coming to its end, but still we are looking forward to hosting the Final Conference of the Project, “Mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders between efficiency and the rule of law” to be held in Catania, 7-8th November 2024.

Over the coming days, we will continue to update you on the project's upcoming activities and the results achieved by the consortium... Stay tuned!