

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

| PROJECT | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Participant: | [101081558] - [Re:Common APS] ([ReCommon]) |
| PIC number: | [939722906] |
| Project name and acronym: | [Citizens´Observatory For Green Deal Financing] — [Citizens4EGDFunding] |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Event number: | 19 |
| Event name: | Green Deal events for activists, citizens and media, Italy focused on EP elections |
| Type: | Workshop, conference |
| In situ/online: | in-situ |
| Location: | Italy, Rome |
| Date(s): | 10/03/2024; 11/03/2024 |
| Website(s) (if any): | <p>Webpages to promote the event on 11 March 2024:</p> <p>Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/events/433399905695192/?active_tab=discussion</p> <p>Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.it/e/una-transizione-giusta-per-litalia-tickets-845854863667?aff=odtdtcreator&fbclid=IwAR2EC5VNorcAwq8V-TcJHDrntSz-euww5YIR0mnLArD3ZEf_Ir_XZjzDuCU</p> <p>Recording of the event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTSauVmP8Jo&t=2276s</p> <p>Description of the event on ReCommon website: https://www.recommon.org/evento-una-transizione-giusta-per-litalia-coming-stiamo-spendendo-i-soldi-delleuropa/</p> <p>Link to the election compass and manifesto, promoted during the event: https://www.recommon.org/nasce-mira-per-fare-luce-sui-fondi-pubblici-e-aumentare-la-partecipazione-civica-ai-processi-decisionali-relativi-al-loro-utilizzo/</p> <p>Link to download the presentations from the event: https://drive.proton.me/urls/92JRBR8JY0#4rMoZ0Z7Eszo</p> <p>Article on the project landing page: https://bankwatch.org/event/discussions-on-the-state-of-the-european-green-deal-implementation-in-italy</p> |
| Participants | |

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|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|---|
| Female: | 40 | | |
| Male: | 44 | | |
| Non-binary: | 0 | | |
| Did not provide information: | 1 | | |
| From country 1 [Italy]: | 82 | | |
| From country 2 [Belgium]: | 2 | | |
| From country 3 [Germany]: | 1 | | |
| Total number of participants: | 85 | From total number of countries: | 3 |

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

On 10 and 11 March, ReCommon organised two events in Rome to discuss the state of the European Green Deal and how European funds contribute to the green transition in Italy, considering that Italy is currently receiving an unprecedented amount of funds from the EU. Just a few months away from the European elections, both events represented an opportunity to further reflect on how to approach the elections and bring the demands outlined in the Citizens' Observatory for Green Deal Financing coalition [manifesto on the future of EU public finances](#) to the next European institutions, in order to ensure that the transition is socially and environmentally just.

The two events were promoted through social media, ReCommon's newsletter, targeted e-mailing to the contacts lists of ReCommon. In addition, the national events were also promoted at institutional and networking meetings with Italian CSOs. ReCommon prepared social media covers and images, also showing the logos of the European Commission, ReCommon and Bankwatch project logo, in Italian and English, to be shared with the other partners for dissemination purposes.

In order to link the promotion of the events to the upcoming EU elections, we prepared some material in the form of a written text to inform about the importance of the elections and to invite Italian citizens to vote to support policies that are in line with citizens' needs and that contribute to the green transition. This material, that we defined as '[election compass](#)', was prepared, adapted to the Italian context, and then uploaded on ReCommon's webpage for the event that was hosted on 11 March. Unfortunately, in Italy the discussion on the EU elections was not very lively in March yet, but further activities on the elections are planned closer to June, when the topic is expected to be more discussed.

The invitation to the first event on Sunday, 10 March 2024 was shared with a selected list of activists and representatives of local organizations and communities from different parts of Italy.

The invitation to the public event on Monday, 11 March 2024 was published on ReCommon's website, counting 4500 users/months (average). The same invitation was sent to 5230 contacts through ReCommon's newsletter (numbers as of 20 March).

The events were also promoted through:

- An event on Facebook was created by ReCommon, reaching a total of 4700 people.
- ReCommon's instagram page (8383 followers) via post and stories, reaching a total number of 2500 visualizations.
- ReCommon's X profile (5758 followers), reaching a total of 825 visualizations.

1. Workshop for activists, civil society organizations and media - 10 March 2024

The first event took place on Sunday 10 March 2024 and brought together a gender-balanced group of activists, associations, and local groups from different Italian regions that have worked or are currently working on projects that are funded by European funds in Italy. ReCommon organised this event to connect these different groups of activists together, share their experiences and identify synergies, as well as to address common issues emerging from their work.

Participants: Total number of participants: 39 (female: 19; male 19; non-binary: 0; prefer not to say: 1)

The event lasted from 14:30 to 18:30. After a short introduction, the participants were divided into groups and were asked to discuss the following topics:

- Transparency and access to information in your region.
- Involvement of other groups (citizens, civil society organizations, experts, universities) in your regions.
- Media coverage in your region and at the national level.
- Dialogue and advocacy with the institutions (regional, national or European).

The main challenges identified reflected the complexity of decision-making processes and the importance of involving citizens more broadly and transparently. According to most of the participants, the main difficulties encountered relate to access to and understanding of information on authorisation procedures, transparency of data, and lack of clarity in the goals of the project. After the in-group discussions, ReCommon moderated the final plenary where we reflected all together on the points raised by each group and we agreed on next steps to find room for cooperation on the monitoring of the cases of projects presented during the event.

As a response to the needs that emerged during the discussions, we anticipated during Sunday's event the presentation of a new program focusing on public finance and the implementation of European funds within ReCommon. This event was a first major step to build a structured partnership with local groups, to ensure the right involvement of civil society for a just transition to climate neutrality by bringing light to the processes of transparency.

2. "A just transition for Italy. How are we spending Europe's money?" - 11 March 2024

On 11 March 2024, ReCommon organised an event to discuss the state of implementation of European funds in Italy, with a particular focus on the Recovery and Resilience Facility and cohesion policy funds. The event took place at Spazio Europa (a public space located in Rome and managed by the European Parliament's Office in Italy and the European Commission's Representation in Italy) from 10:00 to 13:00.

The last few years have shown that European funds play an increasingly central role in the Italian economy and politics: an unprecedented amount of funds has been allocated to Italy through the implementation of the NextGenerationEU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Italy is the largest recipient of the RRF and receives large funds from the cohesion policy funds. European funds are therefore essential to promote a green and just transition of the Italian economy and society, but it is necessary that these funds are implemented in an ambitious way. With the upcoming European elections, ReCommon organised a panel to share examples of how European funds are being implemented in Italy and to advance a discussion on the quality of the implementation and of the involvement of citizens.

On this occasion, ReCommon presented a new project fully dedicated to public finance with a specific focus on monitoring EU funds, based on the experience started in the framework of the Citizens Observatory for Green Deal Financing project in monitoring the Italian recovery plan and identifying iconic projects financed through EU money. The new project was presented with its own name and logo (MIRA) and aims to promote the transparency and accountability of political parties through advocacy actions at national and European level and to ensure that the use of public funds truly contributes to the targets of the European Green Deal.

Speakers and topics:

The event lasted from 10:00 to 13:00 and was moderated by a representative of FEPS (Foundation for European Progressive Studies) with the following programme:

10:00 - 10:15: Welcome speech by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy

10:15 - 10:45: Presentation of MIRA, ReCommon's new project on public finance

10:45 - 11:15: Coffee break

11:15 - 12:30: Panel discussion with four panellists from CEE Bankwatch Network, Fondazione Openpolis, Action Aid Italia. The panellists were asked to provide an answer to the question 'How are we spending Europe's money?'

12:30 - 13:00: Q&A with questions from the audience and conclusions from the discussion

The panel touched upon several issues related to EU funds, from the issue of transparency and the lack of necessary data to monitor the implementation of the projects financed by EU funds, to the quality of the investments that often do not contribute to the objectives of the green transition. The issue of the lack of participation of the public, local communities as well as often of the local and regional administrations appeared

as predominant, and a reflection on how to think about solutions to make the decision-process participatory was advanced, both in view of the European elections and the discussions over the next Multi-annual Financial Framework. During the Q&A session, other topics such as of financing energy communities was raised by the audience (with comments from a representative from the regional administration of Lazio), as well as more specific matters related to single projects, as it was the case of the breakwater of Genova.

Participants: Total number of participants: 46 (female: 21, male: 25, non-binary: 0; prefer not to say: 0).

The event featured a diverse group of participants from Italian institutions, civil society organizations, local associations, citizens. Gender diversity was represented both in the panel (with 2 women and 2 men) and in the audience.

Evaluation summary: Following the two events, the participants were asked to fill the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. Unfortunately, only 3 people filled in the survey by the time of submission of this EDS, but the assessment from these three participants was very high: all points were rated 4 or 5, with six questions scoring 5/5 for all three respondents (i.e. overall assessment of the event, increased awareness, increased cooperation and the methodology chosen, content of the event and venue chosen). The respondents also highlighted that "the organiser made sure that the participant group is diverse" and that "the trainers team was diverse and gender-balanced" and that they will definitely use what they learnt in their everyday life/work. There was also one extra comment appreciating that the event exposed similarity of common problems experienced in different location in Italy and the format of the event helped in discovering approaches to enhance efficacy of response to future similar situations. Besides, it improved the ability to network between the participants and to transfer this knowledge to the organizations.

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
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| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
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