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RECOVER kick off meeting – Press release

On Thursday 15th of December 2022 the kick-off meeting of the project RECOVER - *Mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders between efficiency and the rule of law* was held gathering the several members of the consortium.

In the meeting, which was held virtually by the online platform MsTeams to guarantee all the partners the opportunity to participate safely and in compliance with the principle of cost-effectiveness, the Coordinator of the project, Professor Anna Maria Maugeri (full professor of criminal law at the University of Catania), explained the aim and the scientific contents of the project, aimed at setting up a net-work of Prosecutors, Judicial and Asset Recovery Offices as well as universities in 10 EU MS for the efficient implementation of the Regulation no. 1805/2018 (REG) on the mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders, as fundamental tool of cooperation in the fight against organized and economic crime.

RECOVER is the first impact assessment of the REG from the substantial criminal law view point and it aims at detecting and overcoming the legal issues in the REG interpretation, but also at creating the substantial conditions in implementing it in compliance with the rule of law, increasing mutual trust and harmonization.

During the meeting the consortium started to organize the activities of the first six months of RECOVER (the 2nd workpackage) discussing the next steps of the research, *i.e.* the preparation of national reports on the basis of questionnaires in the matter of national confiscation models covered by the Regulation as well as the organization of an online workshop in January 2023 (on “The concept of proceedings in criminal matters under art. 1 of the REG - and related safeguards”) and of an in-presence workshop in April (on “National confiscation models covered by the REG - proposals of harmonization”).

During the next months we will continue to update you on the news about the project and on the results that the consortium will achieve.