

iMonitor in Italy: results from civic engagement and monitoring

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Grant agreement nr. 101103267

Monithon Europe

www.monithon.eu

- "Monitoring Marathon" Independent and non-profit organization
- ☐ It develops methods and tools that anyone can use for the civic monitoring of public funding
- ☐ More than 40.000 "civic monitors" since 2013





Our engagement strategy



- ☐ Early stakeholder involvement at the local level
- ☐ Individual online meetings to codesign participation

Priority	Target audience	# Groups / individuals contacted
1	Existing networks with prior connection	13
2	Groups / NGOs with synergetic interests : transparency or anticorruption	10
	Groups or individuals involved in (potentially) synergetic volunteer work E.g. activists or groups interested in specific	
3	interventions	55

Local communities and NGOs





Community	No. of reports
NGO (Foggia)	1
NGO (Torino)	1
NGO (Avellino)	4
NGO (Cagliari)	1
NGO (Torre del Greco, Napoli)	1
NGO (Venezia)	1
NGO (Padova)	1
NGO (Cagliari)	1
Individual citizen (Fermo)	1
Individual citizen (Torino)	1
Individual citizen (Torino)	1
Informal group (Napoli)	1
Informal group (Oria, Brindisi)	1

Italy's specificities



☐ Key messages to the communities

- Free, accessible training. No prior expertise required
- Dialogue with institutions, not confrontation
- Visibility, legitimacy, safety

■ What worked

- Field visits & local support \to motivation and community-building, fun approach :-)
- Link to EU projects: the community selected investments that mattered to them
- Constant tutoring (calls, chats)
- Legal expert support during all phases of the monitoring process
- Open badges, recognition, and national event

Results



□ Contract selection

- Low-integrity contracts on opentender.eu (<70 pts): low level of complexity of contract description; tenders with a single lot
- Relevant for the community
- Contract value above > € 50.000

■ What did we find?

- 5 FOIA requests submitted + 7 field visits + Interviews with local governments
- 8 out of 15 reports identified some issues (e.g., delays)
- 2 reports deal with suspicious cases (research still ongoing)

Reflections and lessons learned



☐ Lesson learned

- Crucial to select contracts that matters for the community
- Motivation grows with constant support and network creation
- Training should be engaging and human-centered
- Legal guidance is critical for confidence

☐ What's next

- 6 communities/individuals plan to continue monitoring
- Communities joined to learn and possibly replicate the method
- Seeds of a growing community of practice
- Monitoring as a gateway to long-term engagement

A civic monitoring story Urban regeneration in Turin





THANK YOU!

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