



STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY models for the democratic re-use of buildings of criminal groups

Working conference 10 & 11 November 2016

IN CONCLUSION OF THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT CREATING PUBLIC SPACES - BEST PRACTICE IN THE RE-USE OF CONFISCATED ASSETS

Turn mafia-dens into democratic community centres! - Through the EU-project Creating Public Spaces German and Italian organisations worked on models of how to strengthen local democratic culture through the re-use of assets confiscated from criminal groups. As an instrument of repression and prevention of crime this approach has been successfully used in Italy against mafias. In which way could the confiscation and re-use by civil society be helpful also in Germany to counter groups of the extreme right and other criminal organisations? During a two-day conference this will be debated by members of civil society, by lawyers, politicians and academics of different disciplines - always with the aim of developing concrete proposals.

DIRECTED BY

Benno Plassmann, Echolot - Projekte für demokratische Kultur, gegen Mafien e.V., **Dr. Tobias Scholz**, Amadeu Antonio Stiftung

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 10 November Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, Novalisstr. 12, 10115 Berlin

14:00 - 17:30 h Workshops

- * Legal frameworks: Prof. Martin Heger, Dott. Federico Alagna
- * Reflections on social spaces: Dr. Tobias Scholz, Dr. Uta Döring, Michael Plackert, Alexander Völkel, Dr. Beate Selders, Samuel Signer
- * Cultural Actions: Benno Plassmann, Torsten Sowada, Dr. Mieste Hotopp-Riecke, Roberta Malara

Friday, 11 November Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, Raum 2116 (Audi Max)

A conference in German and Italian, using simultaneous translation between the two languages.

9:00 c.t.

Registration

9:15 - 9:45 h

Welcome and introduction

- * Welcome by the host: Prof. Dr. Martin Heger (Law Dpt., Humboldt University Berlin)
- * Welcome by the lead-partner of the project Creating public spaces: Consigliere Dott. Arturo Bova (Chairman of the anti-'ndrangheta Commission of the Regional Parliament of Calabria)
- * Introduction by the conference chair: Benno Plassmann (Echolot - Projekte für demokratische Kultur, gegen Mafien e.V.)

9:45 - 10:30 h

Presentation workshop results / demands

10:30 - 11:15 h

Reactions and discussion

Dr. Johannes Fechner, MdB (SPD), Monika Lazar, MdB (Grüne), Timo Reinfrank (Amadeu Antonio Stiftung), Heike Scharppf (Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste), Rainer Bohne (SRL e.V. & Rat für Baukultur und Denkmalkultur)

11:15 - 11:45 h

Break

11:45 - 12:15 h

Conversation with Karen Larisch, MdL Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Die LINKE):
„Challenges in prevention work against territorial control by criminal Nazi-gangs“

12:15 - 13:00 h

Jürgen Roth (Author, e.g. »Mafialand Deutschland«, »Der Tiefe Staat«) in discussion with **Claudio Cordova** (editor www.ildispaccio.it, Reggio Calabria):
„How to talk about it? Problems of media representation of criminal organisations.“

To register and for further questions please contact: b.plassmann@echolot-verein.de, tobias.scholz@amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de



www.amadeu-antonio-stiftung.de



Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union

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WORKSHOPS

WS I Legal frameworks

This workshop's discussions will focus on two issues. Taking account of the civil society-recommendations to the Bundestag regarding the planned reform of the system of penal confiscation in Germany, participants will debate what a possible system of confiscation and social reuse could look like in Germany. The second discussion point will be the pros and cons of widening § 129a StGB (German penal code: criminal or terrorist organisation) to include mafia-type criminal organisations. The Italian penal code provides a definition of a mafia-type criminal organisation, could this be helpful for a potential future reform of the German penal code?

LED BY

Prof. Dr. Martin Heger, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
Dott. Federico Alagna, Osservatorio sulla 'ndrangheta Reggio Calabria.

Workshop in English.

WS II Reflections on social spaces

This workshop will center on social dynamics around spaces dominated by rightwing-extremists, with a specific regard to the concept of ‚spaces of fear‘. How can spaces of fear be described, are there differences between urban and rural areas? What role do specific buildings play in the establishment of spaces of fear? What spatial strategies do criminal Nazi groups use, sometimes leading to a veritable territorial control? These questions will be addressed together with civil society experts from Berlin-Köpenick and Dortmund-Dorstfeld, with the aim of developing concrete proposals of how to push back spaces of fear or territorial control by criminal groups.

LED BY

Dr. Uta Döring und **Dr. Tobias Scholz**, Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, **Michael Plackert** (Koordinierungsstelle Vielfalt, Toleranz und Demokratie, Dortmund), **Beate Selders** (Soziologin), **Samuel Signer** (Zentrum für Demokratie, Berlin-Schöneeweide), **Alexander Völkel** (Nordstadtblogger.de, Dortmund) and **activists** from Berlin-Köpenick

Workshop in German.

WS III Cultural actions

Starting from the work of Saxony-Anhalt association of cultural youth work LKJ and the Calabrian Nemesis Cooperative, participants will discuss strategies of democratic (re-)appropriation of spaces through participatory cultural work. In their national pilot project www.dehnungsfuge.com LKJ Sachsen-Anhalt starts from buildings left without function because of economic-demographic decline. The Calabrian Cooperative Nemesis starts from buildings left without function because of the repression of criminal activity leading to confiscation. The way how the ‚Dehnungsfuge‘ team activates social networks and stimulates them through cultural actions will be compared with the situation in Calabria. What cultural processes, what artistic forms result from such work? And how should they be supported?

LED BY

Benno Plassmann, Echolot e.V. Berlin, **Torsten Sowada** and **Dr. Mieste Hotopp-Riecke**, LKJ Sachsen-Anhalt, and **Roberta Malara**, Cooperativa Nemesis Reggio Calabria.

Workshop in German and English.



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