



SEVeso Project – Support Eco-Victims: strategies and tools for supporting rights and compensation for the victims of environmental harm

D.3.3. CIRCLE DIALOGUES IN MANTUA ABSTRACT



Acronimi dei partner e componenti gruppo di ricerca

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D.3.3. CIRCLE DIALOGUES IN MANTUA

ABSTRACT

The report describes the activities carried out between January and December 2025 by the research units of UNIBO and UNITO, together with two facilitators/penal mediators, with the aim of launching the “*Dialoghi in Circolo*” (“Circle Dialogues”) in Mantua.

The stages of the research described in the report are as follows:

- 1) Establishment of the Guarantors' Group (GdG), joined by nine people belonging to local institutions and associations, trade unions, and business organizations. This group are key contributors as they are people who, over the years, have been involved in various ways in the matter under dispute, namely the issues (environmental, health, economic, legal) raised by the SIN “Mantua Lakes – chemical pole”.
- 2) Preparation of the background information, called “Guide to the discussion,” which was validated by the GdG, thanks to the multidisciplinary skills of its members, before the cycle of meetings called “Circle Dialogues” took place. This document outlines a path for economic development, legal issues, and environmental and health protection in the Mantua Lakes and chemical pole area, explaining the “Circle Dialogues” project in terms that are accessible even to non-experts.
- 3) Recruitment of participants and implementation of the “Circle Dialogues.” This is a program of meetings where a small, diverse group of Mantua citizens will discuss, in an informed and reasoned manner, how to promote the economic development of the area while protecting the environment and health, to formulate shared recommendations to be presented to the GdG, institutions, and the citizens of Mantua. Ten people were recruited in the city of Mantua, diverse in terms of age, educational background, neighborhood residence or work, profession, interests, and expertise in the industrial development-environmental protection dilemma. This group of ten participated in four meetings.
- 4) Organization of an online feedback meeting with the GdG, during which the main results emerging from the “Circle Dialogues” were summarized, with reference to the topics addressed in each meeting.
- 5) Recognizing that community circles within educational institutions are a tool that can be used proactively to strengthen relationships, respond to problems and conflicts, and teach social-emotional learning skills, eight students enrolled in the “Social Work” and “Sociology and Social Work” degrees at the University of Bologna were recruited, and a workshop was organized along the lines of the “Circle Dialogues” held in Mantua, using the same methodology and guideline to

the discussion. The aim was to encourage both reflection and cognitive and emotional evaluation among young people not residing in areas affected by industrial pollution and environmental damage which, unfortunately, can affect any territory.

- 6) A public event was held in Mantua presenting citizens with the results of the research carried out in the area. The initiative was sponsored by the Municipality of Mantua, and Dr. Andrea Murari, Counsellors for Environment and Territorial Planning, Lake Restoration and Enhancement, Energy Policies, Urban Regeneration, Private Construction and Relations with the City Council, gave the institutional welcome speech.