



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

D.1.3. CONTEXT ANALYSIS: THE TARANTO AREA

ABSTRACT



Acronimi dei partner e componenti gruppo di ricerca

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITA' DI BOLOGNA	UNIBO
CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	CNR
UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO	UNITO

Team		ORCID (se disponibile)
UNIBO	Sette Raffaella	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0806-8862
UNIBO	Tuzza Simone	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0321-0914
CNR-ISASI	Lupo Giampiero	https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3614-1967
CNR-ISASI	Sbarro Alessandro	https://orcid.org/0009-0006-4796-1513
CNR-IFC	Cori Liliana	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3070-2535
CNR-IFC	Bianchi Fabrizio	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3459-9301
CNR-IFC	Cavigli Chiara	https://orcid.org/0009-0005-2643-2121
CNR-IGSG	Carnevali Davide	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7929-275X
CNR-IGSG	Velicogna Marco	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7526-9632
CNR-ISGI	Andreone Gemma	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3307-8512
CNR-ISGI	Marzano Marianna	
UNITO	Ravazzi Stefania	https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6655-1839



D.1.3. CONTEXT ANALYSIS: THE TARANTO AREA

ABSTRACT

The research carried out aims to reconstruct the opinions, perceptions, and expectations of the main stakeholders involved or affected by environmental, health, and legal issues in the Taranto area.

The people who were asked to participate in the interview were selected through a sampling process designed to ensure that the main categories of social actors relevant to the field of environmental justice and territorial governance are represented. Specifically, stakeholders were divided into the following analytical macro-categories, defined because of their institutional or social role and their position with respect to decision-making processes and environmental conflicts: legal professionals (magistrates, lawyers, technical consultants); representatives of industries and their legal advisors; trade unions and workers' representatives; environmental associations and citizens' committees; health and environmental authorities (ASL – Local Health Authority; ARPA - Regional Environmental Protection Agency); other institutional social actors of local (representatives of the Municipal Administration of Taranto), national (the Vice-Prefect) and European (European parliamentarians) institutions.

The analysis of the content of the interviews reveals rich and diversified points of view, characterized by divergent opinions on the industrial future of Taranto that reflect not only different political orientations, but also different conceptions of the relationship between economic development, health protection, and environmental sustainability.

It is difficult to identify consistent opinions among the actors interviewed: on the one hand, there are positions that identify the definitive closure of the steel plant as the only way compatible with health and environmental protection (this is the opinion expressed by PeaceLink, “*Cittadini Liberi e Pensanti*” - Free and Thinking Citizens, and “*Giustizia per Taranto*” - Justice for Taranto); on the other, some views focus on production continuity through technological innovation and decarbonization: this opinion is resolutely expressed by Mr. Picaro (*Fratelli d'Italia* – Brothers of Italy) and, with different nuances, by *Legambiente*.

Trade unions are in an intermediate position, which reject the logic of the ‘trilemma’ and claim that it is possible to simultaneously safeguard jobs, protect health and the environment through structured public industrial policies.

This fragmentation is not only limited to technical or economic dimensions but also affects the symbolic and narrative levels: the way in which the “problem” is defined radically influences the solutions considered acceptable. For some interviewees, the problem is the absence of a genuine ecological transition; for others, it is the abandonment of the region's industrial vocation; for some others, it is the lack of a public project capable of guaranteeing both social and environmental justice at the same time.

Far from being an obstacle, this diversity of positions is a prerequisite for the launch of the “Circle Dialogues” (“Dialoghi in Circolo”). The participatory process promoted by the SEVeso project will be based precisely on the recognition of this plurality of points of view, transforming the divisions into opportunities for a structured discussion.

The interviews made it possible to map not only explicit positions, but also interpretative frameworks, perceptions of victimization, shared fears, and expectations regarding the future of the area.

The “Circle Dialogues” will therefore be based on the results of the context analysis, ensuring that the discussion between citizens does not start from ideological premises or simplifications so often seen in the media, but from a detailed understanding of the reasons, constraints, and expectations of the different stakeholders. The aim is to create a space in which personal experiences, available scientific data, and different visions of the future can be transparently discussed, encouraging the emergence of common proposals or, at the very least, a mutual understanding of each other's reasons.

In this perspective, the knowledge gathered through the interviews will feed not only into the thematic content of the dialogues, but also into their methodological approach, ensuring that the participatory process is based on principles of pluralism, transparency, and recognition of differences, under the supervision of the Committee of Guarantors.