



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

### **D.3.2. CIRCLE DIALOGUES IN TARANTO ABSTRACT**



### **D.3.2. CIRCLE DIALOGUES IN TARANTO**

#### **ABSTRACT**

The “Circle Dialogues” program is the result of a series of preparatory, informative, and participatory activities aimed at creating a structured forum for discussion between citizens, the employment market, associations, and institutions on the environmental, health, and economic future of the Taranto area.

The first phase of this program was dedicated to establishing the methodological foundations of the study. Specifically, the CNR-ISASI research group conducted a document analysis and collected data from institutional sources, epidemiological studies, scientific literature, and judicial documents, with the aim of reconstructing the environmental, health, and socio-economic context of the SIN “Taranto area”. Interviews were also conducted with key people of the Taranto area (trade union representatives, associations, experts, activists, technicians) to map the main positions of each and identify the points of conflict/convergence which could be relevant to the public debate.

Another crucial step was the establishment of the Group of Guarantors, who were selected from key people recognized for their expertise, authority, and knowledge of the local context and the environmental, health, legal, and social issues covered by the SEVeso research, with the aim of ensuring a plurality of perspectives and independence of judgment.

The Guarantors were involved on an ongoing and collaborative basis, also reviewing and providing comments on methodological and informational documents.

In particular, the informational document was designed as a tool for participants in the circle dialogues, providing them with a common and shared knowledge base on the context.

Before the start of the Circle Dialogues, two public meetings were organized (in October and November 2025) involving citizens, with the main purpose of providing information and recruiting them.

As part of the SEVeso project's dissemination and public engagement activities, researchers participated in an episode dedicated to the project on the podcast “*Stai parlato*” (Your Voice) by La Factory, a series of informal and accessible conversations aimed at a wide audience, a community active in promoting cultural and social content. In episode 36, the podcast hosted SEVeso researchers from CNR-ISASI to present to non-specialist listeners the topics and methods of the Circle Dialogues project, explaining its objectives, participatory approach, and significance.

The core of the process consists of meetings reserved for a selected group of citizens, conducted with the support of professional facilitators and according to a shared methodological structure. Three meetings were held (between December 2025 and January 2026), at the end of which the imperative need to rebuild trust and social cohesion through authentic and continuous participation was evident.

The Circle Dialogues were recognized by participants as a rare and necessary platform for discussion, capable of restoring the centrality of citizens' voices in a context marked by fatigue, disillusionment, and a sense of powerlessness.