Brief description of your civic monitoring research

In the liquid heart of Marsala's historic center, we explore the hidden fabric of its water pipes: a network that flows, cracks, and sometimes gets lost. We seek to uncover weaknesses, listen to the silent language of water, and understand whether the interventions are truly restoring a transparent right to citizens.

Keywords:

- Fundamental right;
- Health and collective well-being;
- Urban infrastructure;
- Water management;
- Transparency.

Contextual information

The project draws on two funding sources: the SICILIAN REGION PSC, the Fund for Development and Cohesion, for the 2007-2013 programming period, and the SICILY ERDF POR, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), for the 2014-2020 programming period. The total public cost amounts to € 5,000,000.00, of which € 4,020,202.82 are the monitored payments.
The planned starting date was 13/07/2017, with completion expected by 11/04/2019. Anyway, the actual start was 05/02/2018, and, even if the actual completion was scheduled for 25/05/2020, the project is still in progress.

Chosen project and theme

The project chosen by our team on the "Open Coesione" platform is the "Marsala - Lavori di sostituzione della rete idrica del centro storico e dei centri abitati (Obiettivi di Servizio ex Del. Cipe 79/2012)."
Our research focuses on the water system of Marsala's historical center: an ancient network where memory, urban design, and daily life intersect. The theme is water management, and its power to reveal what the city often hides: leaks, inefficiencies, suspended rights.

Experts on the theme to be involved from the territory

- Mayor of Marsala;
- President of the City Council;
- Water Service administrative and financial experts;
- Water network specialists;
- Planners and designers;
- Environmental bodies, associations, and committees;
- Representatives of schools and public facilities;
- Europe Direct representatives;
- ASOC partners and tutors.

Communication format and involvement strategy

We aim to turn water into a shared narrative: clear, accessible, transparent. We will use social media to update citizens with posts, videos, and infographics that bring to light what usually flows unseen. Alongside digital tools, we will rely on printed materials and notices to reach every part of the community. Our goal is awareness, participation, and a collective approach to monitoring.

Additional research

- Archival research (documents and articles);
- Mapping diary;
- Website and database consultation;
- Field study and data collection;
- Interviews with citizens;
- Crowdsourcing.

Value for the community

Our research aims to provide communities with a compass to navigate their water network: not just an infrastructure, but a daily promise of well-being. Sharing clear information helps citizens understand how water flows, or doesn't flow, in their lives.
Water, the archetype of life and a right that must necessarily flow for all, cannot be lost without consequences. When it gets lost in the labyrinth of networks, the pact of trust between citizens and cities, between communities and institutions, is undermined. But we don't choose to remain in the labyrinth. We choose to draw new maps, make hidden paths legible, and listen to what the water network can no longer tell us on its own. Through civic monitoring, we want to restore meaning, direction, and transparency to a system that too often flows beyond the public eye. We don't want anyone to get lost again: neither water, trapped in a labyrinth of pipes that waste its value and future, nor citizens, caught between poor services, silence, and opaque information.
Let's imagine a network without defects, but made of connections; water that doesn't escape, but flows freely, accessible, and continuous, as it is by its very nature: a complete, shared, and crystal-clear right.
Transparency requires new eyes, democracy requires attentive voices, and every drop observed, recounted, and understood can transform change. Let's help build a safer, cleaner, and more efficient urban environment, where no one is left "lost in the water."

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