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Using confiscated assets from organised crime for social purposes and regional development: a comparative study of Lecco and Bari.

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USING CONFISCATED ASSETS FROM ORGANISED CRIME FOR SOCIAL PURPOSES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LECCO AND BARI

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNANCE: STABILITY, VARIABILITY AND INNOVATION – Main author: Claudia Palermo

1. Context

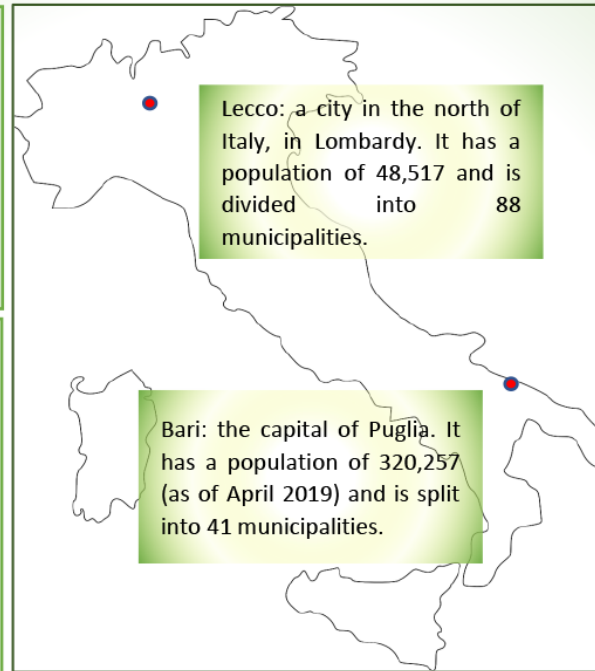
This project seeks to contribute to filling this gap in the literature by focusing on the intersection between geography and law. The aim is to develop a map of spaces and areas of study based on the data produced and networks of actors that exist; understand how the recovery times of confiscated assets are expressed; and gain insights into the associated legal procedures and the roles played by the different bodies involved in the various phases, from the local through to the European level.

2. Methodology and sources

Legal sources; academic sources; media sources; archives of national and regional newspapers, and other periodicals; texts published on social networks; and semi-structured interviews.

3. Questions

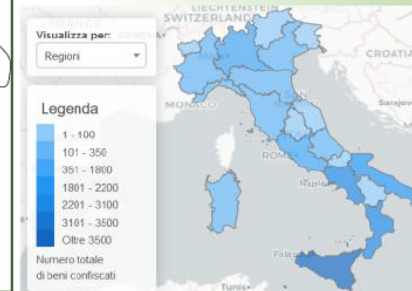
- Which actors are involved in the reuse phases?
- How does social reuse allow for the development of the areas in which the mafia operate/have operated?
- How do policy and legislation intersect at a local, regional, national, European and international level?
- How do areas change after being assigned confiscated assets?



Italian Law 109/1996

allows for a more expeditious management and use of confiscated assets, and is among the most significant instruments adopted to date.

Confiscation of assets or property derived from criminal activity refers to their permanent deprivation as part of a court order or administrative procedure, resulting in their ownership being transferred to the state.



Source: https://openregio.anbsc.it/statistiche/visualizza/beni_gestione/immobili

Total number of confiscated assets assigned.

Lombardy: 1513
Lecco: 33
Apulia: 1815
Bari: 521

4. Initial results

The procedures and laws involved are extremely complex, meaning it often takes a long time for confiscated property to be returned to society. For the past 25 years, thanks to Italian Law 109/1996, authorities have been able to give confiscated assets a new 'lease of life', particularly for the benefit of the regions affected by organised crime. Based on the studies carried out, it is clear that Bari is more committed in this regard than Lecco, and that in Puglia in general, there is greater support for social reuse. It would be logical to conclude that this is a result of the differences between the two cities. In Bari, there is a deep-rooted criminal presence with significant control in the region, whereas in Lecco, the phenomenon is nowhere near as visible. In addition, in Bari such assets are constantly being confiscated, whilst in Lecco the most recent confiscations date back to the 1990s.