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FONDAZIONE CON IL SUD

Identity and mission

Established in year 2006, **Fondazione CON IL SUD** seeks to promote and strengthen the infrastructure of the social, civil and economic development of Southern Italy. As the first initiative in Italy undertaken through entirely private capital, it invests on social cohesion, recognising it as a precondition for an autonomous, long-lasting development process. All this is achieved through an ambitious project that **brings together both banking foundations and Third Sector representatives**.

The expression 'social infrastructures' refers to the development of intangible assets, i.e. relational networks, which provide the opportunity to establish connections between a variety of subjects, enable them to get to know each other, dialogue and work together for the common good.

The Foundation promotes paths of social cohesion in the South in order to foster its development, thereby supporting projects and forms of collaboration and aggregation between entities that intend to commit themselves to the improvement of local communities, with a view to responsibility, participation and solidarity.

The Foundation promotes civil economy initiatives, the culture of giving, and active participation in community welfare, enhancing local social and cultural resources so that they may increasingly act as a driving force for local development.

The Foundation pursues its mission objectives by promoting local ideas, efforts and skills, which can leverage the resources made available in order to implement effective projects and actions for the development of social capital.

From an operational point of view, there are three main means used by the Foundation to pursue its mission:

- **Awarded projects**
- **Volunteer support programmes**
- **Community foundations**

Awarded projects

The Foundation supports projects whose quality, partnerships, resource management and local impact can become reference examples of a virtuous social capital development process in the South. These projects envisage the creation of partnerships between third sector organisations, but also with Public Bodies, Universities, private operators and social partners, in specific areas such as:

- Caring for and enhancing 'common goods' (environmental, cultural, assets confiscated from organised crime).
- Developing, qualifying and upgrading social and health services.
- Welcoming and culturally, socially and economically integrating migrants
- Innovative initiatives on various issues (e.g. prisons, women).
- Educating young people, with particular reference to the culture of legality and the values of civil coexistence.
- Developing highly qualified human capital

In the same areas, the Foundation also supports initiatives co-financed with other funding bodies, which, besides establishing a positive exchange of expertise, generate a 'leverage' effect, leading to a greater flow of resources for social infrastructuring projects in the South of Italy.

Volunteer support programmes

The Foundation promotes programmes to support volunteering. This line of intervention is aimed at strengthening the role of volunteer organisations in local areas. In view of the transversal nature of volunteer organisations and networks, the Foundation supports their consolidation, strengthening their impact on local areas, also by encouraging the experimentation of new ways of working and cooperating in networks.

Community foundations

Alongside the awarded projects and volunteer support programmes, the Foundation promotes and supports the establishment of community foundations, i.e. entities representing a local community that can activate efforts and resources to promote a culture of solidarity and social responsibility.

Through the organic combination of a plurality of local subjects (private citizens, Institutions, associations, economic operators), community foundations can play a leading role in autonomous and independent interventions aimed at satisfying specific local needs, thanks to their ability to collect private and public donations for purposes of collective interest.

Their strategic value lies, above all, in the possibility of widely disseminating the culture of the 'common good', directing actions towards objectives that are locally relevant, involving the community in participating in the collection of resources and in controlling disbursements.

Community foundations are therefore a powerful tool for creating social infrastructures, as they:

- Bring together a local area bodies in various capacities, all sharing the goal of the 'common good' of their community.
- Spread the culture of citizens' responsibility towards the community to which they belong by actively listening to the needs and conducting fundraising activities.
- Support the implementation of social interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of citizens, with particular reference to the weakest people

Three-year strategic programme 2022-2024

For the 2022-2024 period, Fondazione CON IL SUD has opted to maintain continuity with the previous three-year period, outlining in the three-year planning document strategies, criteria and management models inspired by the results and evidence gathered in the 2019-2021 period. However, it has not ruled out the possibility of embarking on further paths of innovation and experimentation.

In addition to the call for proposals – which remain the Foundation’s main way of achieving its strategic objectives and managing the process of evaluating and selecting local proposals – various instruments and methods of direct co-planning, both with local organisations and with other national and international private or public co-funding bodies, are being established.

On the other hand, the thematic areas of particular interest to the Foundation have been confirmed: common goods (confiscated assets, assets of historical, artistic and cultural value, environmental assets), the social and health sphere, support for volunteer work, local development, community foundations, and other ‘innovative’ social themes (e.g. recovery of uncultivated land and social inclusion of Roma communities).

In 2023, the Foundation approved the allocation of EUR 17.718 million for the implementation of 218 initiatives, involving approximately 600 organisations in the various initiatives described below.

In the area of common goods, a call for proposals has been published for the management of **assets confiscated from organised crime**. The call promotes the enhancement of assets confiscated from organised crime with sustainable social, cultural and economic initiatives that can contribute both to the socio-economic development of local areas and the re-appropriation of the asset by the community. In response to the call, 40 proposals were submitted, of which 38 have passed the eligibility process and are currently being assessed.

In the field of **social and health services**, the new edition of the call is aimed at improving the wellbeing of family caregivers of persons with a high burden of care – e.g. cancer patients, chronically degenerative patients, patients with rare diseases, congenital or supervening disabilities – by intervening in all dimensions of life and interacting effectively with public policies and the needs of the local area. A total of 107 proposals were submitted under this call, which will be evaluated at the end of the year.

Experimental initiatives include the **‘Welfare and Technologies’** call, which is aimed at testing technological solutions capable of improving the quality of life of the elderly. In response to this call, 21 proposals were received, of which 2 were financed. As part of the innovative initiatives, interlocutions were initiated with municipal administrations interested in collaborating on an experimental project to promote greater participation and integration of Roma and Sinti communities in social, economic and cultural life, starting with the resolution of housing problems.

Evaluation processes were also completed for the second edition of the **‘Terre colte’** initiative, which is aimed at recovering and enhancing uncultivated, abandoned or inadequately used land in the southern regions. A total of 27 proposals were received in response to the call for proposals, of which 5 passed the comparative evaluation process and received funding.

With reference to the first call for proposals for **energy and social communities in the South**, which was aimed at fostering participatory bottom-up ecological transition processes through the creation of energy and social communities in the regions of Southern Italy (with particular reference to the most deprived areas), 9 projects were supported out of 21 proposals evaluated.

On the subject of the enhancement of the **historical, artistic and cultural heritage**, discussions continued with the Municipality of Taranto to launch joint initiatives for the enhancement of Palazzo Amati by third-sector bodies. Twelve co-financing initiatives were financed thanks to the support of 22 co-financing bodies.

During the year, the Foundation confirmed its **institutional partnerships**, i.e. collaborations with bodies operating both nationally and internationally, in common fields of action. In particular, within the framework of the ‘Creativity Pioneers 2023’ call for proposals, 8 organisations using creativity as a tool for social change were supported in collaboration with the Moleskine Foundation.

With the publication of the third edition of the **‘Biblioteche e comunità’** call, which is promoted in cooperation with Centro per il libro e la lettura, 12 projects were supported which promote the role of municipal libraries in Southern Italy as places of cultural exchange and social inclusion.

In cooperation with Fondazione Finanza Etica, 11 young social enterprises active in the tourism and local development sector were supported.

With the second edition of the initiative **‘Realizziamo il cambiamento CON IL SUD’**, 7 projects in the area of combating poverty and promoting rights were financed in collaboration with ‘Action Aid Italia’.

Institutional partnerships also include the **‘Per aspera ad astra’** initiative with Acri, and the initiative on craft trades in collaboration with OMA.

In relation to **local development** initiatives, support was given to ‘Parco agricolo dei paduli’, a project to develop new social entrepreneurship activities in the agricultural and tourism sectors.

The programme FQTS – Training of Southern Third Sector organisations Managers – was renewed, with a focus on the involvement of southern local communities.

The Foundation awarded grants to 23 other initiatives, mainly in support of third-sector activities and for actions on issues directly related to its institutional initiatives.

In addition to supporting the start-up phase of the new projects approved in 2023, the Foundation also continued to offer its support and assistance to all the projects, volunteer programmes, community foundations and funded initiatives activated in previous years and still in progress.

Awarded projects

Call for Social and Health Services

Objective: The call is aimed at improving the wellbeing of family carers with a high care burden, intervening on all dimensions of life. The projects, which do not replace public intervention, must envisage an integrated approach based on full cooperation between all the parties responsible for care, both public and private, which can support family caregivers and the persons cared for, both in the challenges incurred daily in the experience of caring deriving from specific pathologies and disabilities, and in the 're-appropriation' of their own social, relational and working living spaces.

Resources: EUR 4 million

Modalities: The initiative foresees the participation of the public body responsible for social and welfare services in the local area in which it is intended to intervene as a partner, in order to encourage joint experimentation of the services offered, also with a view to sustainability.

State of the art: 107 proposals were received in response to the call. The evaluation process is still ongoing as at 31 December 2023.

Call on Assets Confiscated from Organised Crime

Objective: The objective of the call for proposals is to enhance the value of assets confiscated from organised crime through initiatives that can contribute both to the socio-economic development of the local area and the re-appropriation of the asset by the community. This objective is based on the awareness that the effective enhancement of the confiscated property by the Third Sector organisations not only produces useful services for the community, but also has a profound symbolic value and constitutes a victory of legality over organised crime.

The Foundation, which over the last 17 years has contributed to the enhancement of 86 confiscated assets (54 buildings; 14 plots of land; 17 plots of land with rural buildings and 1 boat), intends keeping providing concrete support to third-sector bodies in the management of the assets assigned to them, further increasing the number of confiscated properties enhanced.

Resources: EUR 3 million

Modalities: The Foundation intends supporting virtuous and lasting interventions for the enhancement of confiscated properties through the development of social entrepreneurial activities by third sector bodies rooted in the local area of intervention.

State of the art: 40 proposals were received in response to the call. The evaluation process is still ongoing as at 31 December 2023.

Call for Energy and Social Communities in the South

Objective: The call for proposals is aimed at promoting participatory bottom-up energy transition processes and reducing energy poverty experienced by households in economic and social hardship through the creation of energy and social communities (CERS). The aim is to support scalable, sustainable practices of renewable energy production and sharing, enabling the start-up of a pathway to energy self-sufficiency, in order to improve the living conditions of people with social and economic disadvantages and generate economic, social and environmental benefits for the community.

Resources: EUR 1.5 million

Modalities: The inquiry process consists of two phases. The first one is aimed at outlining the main characteristics of the energy and social community and identifying a technical partner; the second one is based on a process of accompaniment and executive design. The call also includes an impact assessment.

State of the art: 21 proposals were received in response to the call, of which 9 were selected for funding with over EUR 1.3 million.

- 9 new energy and social communities, of which 4 in Campania (Naples and Benevento), 2 in Sicily (Messina and the province of Enna), 2 in Puglia (Foggia) and 1 in Basilicata (province of Potenza).
- The initiatives involve 525 families and about 50 bodies, including voluntary organisations, parishes, social cooperatives, consortia, enterprises, research institutes, local institutions, municipalities and universities.

2022 'Terre colte' call

Objective: Reclaiming and enhancing uncultivated, abandoned or inadequately used land in the southern regions of Italy, developing socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and high-quality agricultural production, taking into account the local cultural heritage (traditions, typical crops, etc.).

The call is intended to combine the social and labour insertion of fragile people with the development of short supply chain economies, in order to respond to the current difficulties of access to basic agricultural products, ensuring adequate marketing channels.

Resources: EUR 2 million.

Modalities: In addition to cultivation and livestock breeding activities, the proposals may provide for artisan, commercial, social, tourist-receptive initiatives, just to mention a few, provided that they are strictly connected and accessory to those of an agricultural nature.

State of the art: In October 2023, the second phase of the call for proposals was concluded with the funding of 5 projects.

- The 5 projects involve small villages (<10,000 inhabitants) in rural areas in Calabria (1), Campania (2), Puglia (1) and Sicily (1), and one urban area (Naples and Caivano). The aim is to promote the creation of a system of social inclusion and legality through the practice of urban gardens.
- The projects envisage two means of intervention: one is based on 'social entrepreneurship', using the production of traditional farmers and the set-up of processing laboratories to 'close' the supply chains; the other is 'community-based' and features the substantial participation of citizens.

2021 Welfare and Technology Initiative

Objective: To foster experimentation with new technologies capable of improving the living conditions of persons over 65 years of age with chronic and degenerative diseases, by promoting innovation in tele-assistance and telemedicine care activities.

Resources: EUR 1.2 million.

Modalities: The initiative, which is divided into two phases, envisages the presentation of project ideas capable of clearly identifying the technological solutions to be tested and their contribution to improving the quality of life of people over 65. The presence of a technology partner willing to bear 50% of the costs necessary for the development of the technologies is also necessary.

State of the art: 21 proposals were received in response to the call, of which 2 passed the first stage and started the executive design phase, which ended in May 2023:

2 funded projects, for a total amount of EUR 1,107,000, taking action, respectively, in the small Sicilian village of Caltanissetta, and in the provinces of Bari and Brindisi, Puglia, thus affecting peri-urban and inland areas far from the centres of care and treatment.

Art, history and culture

Objective: Restoring and enhancing unused cultural assets of historical, artistic and cultural value in the South through the involvement of local communities.

Common goods are an extraordinary opportunity for social and economic development in Southern Italy. Since its establishment, the Foundation has sought to enhance and strengthen the Third Sector's 'vocation' for their shared use, making them a tool for the participation of people in community life, an opportunity for the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged, and a means for the growth of the economic-entrepreneurial dimension of non-profit bodies.

Resources: EUR 2.90 million.

Modalities: Initiatives for the enhancement of cultural heritage are based on agreements signed by Fondazione CON IL SUD with the municipalities or other (public or private) bodies owning the assets, giving third-sector bodies the opportunity to set up paths of social inclusion and generate job opportunities within them, with the general aim of 'restoring' the cultural heritage to the community with a view to its concrete use.

State of the art: An agreement has been signed with the Municipality of Taranto to launch a joint initiative aimed at enhancing the first and second floors of Palazzo Amati.

2020 Local Development: Puglia

Objective: Promoting social infrastructures, the development of the local economy and the increase of employment in areas with consolidated expertise supported by Fondazione CON IL SUD through initiatives capable of bringing together and connecting the human resources present in the local area and seizing the opportunities offered by the local environmental and cultural heritage.

Resources: EUR 3 million

Modalities: The Foundation intends testing a mechanism that will enhance the most significant initiatives and confirm the assumption that development or employment paths can be derived from the strengthening of social capital. To this end, the Foundation invites locally active organisations to submit proposals for action, selects those most consistent with the objective of the initiative and accompanies them in the process of defining an executive project involving the local community.

State of the art: Out of the 5 organisations in the Puglia area invited to submit a local development proposal, 3 responded and 1 was admitted to the executive design phase, which ended in October 2023 with the funding of the 'La Fucina del Parco Paduli' proposal with a contribution of EUR 2,692,000.

Call for support for tourism-related social enterprises in the South

Objective: Supporting development programmes of recently established social enterprises in the tourism sector, which are able to enhance the local area and create social and economic impact in the community of reference.

Resources: The resources earmarked for the call amount to EUR 565,000, of which 50% made available by Fondazione CON IL SUD and 50% by Fondazione Finanza Etica.

Modalities: Applications may be submitted by individual social enterprises registered in the special section of the Business Register and operating in the tourism sector for local development. The contribution requested must be between EUR 25,000 and EUR 50,000, with investment costs not exceeding 50% of the development programme.

State of the art: 32 proposals were received in response to the call. A total of 11 social enterprises operating in Campania (4), Sicily (3), Puglia (2), Calabria (1) and Basilicata (1) were supported for a total amount of EUR 545,198 (of which EUR 272,599 by Fondazione CON IL SUD and the same amount by Fondazione Finanza Etica).

The 11 development programmes involve measures to promote and redevelop local tourism heritage (whether architectural, cultural, ecclesiastical, or natural), including through participatory processes aimed at defining innovative and attractive tourism offers. A special focus has been placed on the themes of sustainable, social and environmental tourism and the ability to promote the social and labour inclusion of people with fragilities.

'Biblioteche e Comunità' call

Objective: Enhancing the role of libraries of the municipalities in Southern Italy that have obtained the qualification of 'Città che legge' (Reading City) for the 2022-2023 two-year period as places of cultural exchange and social inclusion, fostering the opening of libraries to the community.

Resources: EUR 1 million, of which EUR 500,000 made available by Fondazione CON IL SUD and EUR 500,000 by the Centre for Books and Reading.

Modalities: The projects are designed to introduce a change in the way library institutions and local communities inter-relate, by improving access to spaces, library heritage and support services for reading and study, while at the same time providing for innovative ways of participation and involvement of people in difficult conditions who are traditionally excluded from cultural processes.

State of the art: 32 proposals were received in response to the call, of which 29 were admitted for evaluation.

- 12 projects supported for a total amount of EUR 1 million, of which EUR 500,000 borne by Fondazione CON IL SUD and the same amount by the Centro per il libro e la lettura .
- 5 in Campania (provinces of Caserta, Naples and Salerno); 4 in Puglia (provinces of Bari, Barletta-Andria-Trani and Lecce); 2 in Sicily (provinces of Enna and Palermo); 1 in Calabria (province of Catanzaro)
- 110 third-sector, public and private organisations involved along with 22 municipal libraries
- More than 6,000 people excluded from cultural fruition processes were involved (minors, migrants, disabled people, elderly people and prison inmates) also through the dissemination of cultural centres in the local area.

'Realizziamo il cambiamento con il Sud' call

Objective: Fostering and supporting interventions to combat poverty and promote rights, with an approach based on community welfare and featured by the full participation and networking of right bearers and all the actors involved (Institutions, private and public bodies, formal and informal groups) and by the assumption of responsibility by the promoting bodies themselves.

Resources: EUR 500,000 made available by Fondazione CON IL SUD (in 2022) and the same amount of resources made available by Action Aid Italia, for a total of EUR 1 million paid to Fondazione Realizza il cambiamento, which will be in charge of managing the calls.

Modalities: The initiative is divided into two yearly calls published by Fondazione Realizza il cambiamento, as aimed at non-profit organisations located in the regions of Southern Italy where the Foundation operates.

State of the art: The 2022 edition resulted in the funding of 9 projects; in 2023, the second edition of the call was promoted, in response to which 117 proposals were received, of which 94 were admitted to the evaluation stage. The recipients of the interventions are migrants and people with a migration background, women in disadvantaged conditions, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities and young people.

'Fondo per i pionieri della creatività' initiative

Objective: Supporting small non-profit organisations that promote creativity as a tool for social change.

Resources: EUR 50,000

Modalities: The Creativity pioneers fund was promoted by the Moleskine Foundation in 2021 together with other partners, including Fondazione CON IL SUD. The goal is to support small non-profit organisations that promote creativity as a tool for social change through the disbursement of a small grant and communication initiatives aimed at fostering mutual knowledge and the exchange of experiences between organisations in different countries.

State of the art: 54 organisations in the world have obtained a grant of EUR 5,000 through the last 2023 call. Among them, thanks to the support of Fondazione CON IL SUD, 8 southern third sector organisations were also supported.

'Per aspera ad astra' initiative

Objective: Creating training and exchange pathways addressed to art operators, social workers and inmates focusing on theatre, as well as on the arts and crafts related to theatre, in order to network and disseminate the best experiences and practices of prison theatre identified in Italy.

Resources: The Foundation renewed its support for the initiative 'Per aspera ad astra. Come riconfigurare il carcere attraverso la cultura e la bellezza' (i.e. 'How to reconfigure prisons through culture and beauty') by contributing to the overall cost of the 6th edition of the initiative (amounting to EUR 938,320) with EUR 110,000.

Modalities: Launched in 2017 under the guidance of ACRI and with the operational support of Associazione Carte Blanche, the initiative sees the participation of 11 foundations.

State of the art: A total of 14 theatre companies operating in 13 prison institutes have been supported, of which 3 in the South of Italy.

Support programme for migrants

Objective: Supporting third-sector organisations engaged in consolidating the pioneering experience of humanitarian corridors, providing health and legal assistance to migrants recently arrived in Italy or in transit - with particular reference to border areas and communities or those subject to greater migratory pressure - as well as engaging in search and rescue operations activated in the Mediterranean Sea in coordination with the Italian Coast Guard.

Resources: The Foundation has contributed a total of EUR 1,200,000 to the fund managed by ACRI.

Modalities: Launched in 2016 under the guidance of ACRI and the participation of 5 foundations, in 2021 the initiative gathered the support of 14 foundations, organised in a working group that identifies interventions on the basis of analyses and hearings.

State of the art: During 2023, interventions continued in three areas: the mechanism of humanitarian corridors for people from Afghanistan, Lebanon, Ethiopia, as well as the study channels from Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique; health and legal assistance activities addressed to migrants in conditions of moral and material abandonment who transit through border locations with strong migratory pressure; search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean Sea carried out under the coordination of the Italian Coast Guard.

'Never alone, children on the move' initiative

Objective: Offering an organic and coordinated response by Italian and European foundations to the current migration phenomenon, which particularly affects minors arriving alone in Italy, often in the South. The actions supported are aimed at strengthening and innovating the methods of reception and accompaniment to the transition to adulthood of unaccompanied foreign minors.

Resources: Within the network of Italian foundations adhering to the initiative, which have so far mobilised resources totaling EUR 11,075,000, Fondazione CON IL SUD has adhered with a total contribution of EUR 2.3 million.

Modalities: The initiative, in which 8 Italian and 5 European foundations currently participate through the EPIM secretariat, is articulated on two levels: one national and one European, built on research and advocacy actions at European level and on the countries involved (Belgium, France, Greece and Italy).

State of the art: The promoted projects, as mainly identified through a national call for proposals, concern 12 regions and aim at accompanying young people who arrived in Italy as minors towards autonomy in life. Overall, through dedicated calls and specific actions, Never Alone has involved more than 130 organisations distributed across Italy.

Agribusiness and Research (AGER III)

Objective: Supporting scientific research of excellence to the total benefit of the Italian agri-food industry. In particular, the aim is to promote the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural supply chains, improve production processes through the development of innovative technologies, consolidate the leadership of Made in Italy products – guaranteeing high quality levels for consumers – and encourage the establishment of research networks and the training of young researchers.

Resources: The Foundation contributes with EUR 210,000, of which EUR 60,000 for the AgerII edition (a fund of EUR 7.70 million) and EUR 150,000 for the AgerIII edition (a fund of EUR 4.790 million).

Modalities: Launched in 2013 with Fondazione Cariplo as lead partner, the initiative was renewed in 2020 in collaboration with Fondazione Sardegna, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Teramo, Fondazione Friuli, Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Parma.

State of the art: In 2023, 3 projects were selected in response to a call for proposals aimed at combining environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural and agri-food supply chains. The 3 national initiatives – one of which was presented by a southern university – will provide concrete solutions and innovations to regenerate the vitality and fertility of agricultural soil, improving plant health and guaranteeing the quantity and quality of production.

'Trasformare la fascia trasformata' – Open Society Foundations

Objective: Supporting interventions to promote social change and economic justice aimed at people living in the area of Ragusa (Sicily) who are subject to exploitation, abuse or violence, or generally do not have access to decent living conditions.

Resources: The Foundation is contributing with EUR 350,000 Euro, doubling the resources made available by Open Society Foundations and experimenting for the first time a re-granting mechanism.

Modalities: The areas and themes of intervention have been identified with a co-designing methodology together with local organisations and synergistically concern housing, health and working conditions, alongside the environmental and supply chain dimensions.

State of the art: Actions dedicated to accompanying the families of workers living in agricultural areas towards empowerment and decent housing, analysing and mapping the agricultural supply chain and listening to farmers and local bodies on waste management issues are in fully active. In particular, about 50 households were taken care of through school, educational, psychological and health support interventions, investing in digital literacy and skills enhancement also on the management of financial resources, allowing access to the housing fund. A mapping of the workforce employed in agriculture in the province of Ragusa and of the companies in the local area was carried out. An environmental anti-degradation network and a civic observatory have been set up, and dialogue has been initiated with two municipalities for the implementation of a pilot action of differentiated waste collection in unserved areas inhabited by households not residing in duly registered dwellings.

Fulbright Commission

Objective: Promoting fellowships for US researchers and lecturers interested in doing research and teaching at universities and other research institutions in Southern Italy. The community of scholarship holders and lecturers helps extend the network of collaborations and relations between researchers and academics in Southern Italy and their counterparts in the United States.

Resources: Launched in 2013, the partnership with the Fulbright Commission has been renewed with a EUR 300,000 commitment for the 2024-2027 period.

Modalities: Research and teaching grants are offered at universities in the South of Italy to US lecturers and researchers. Similarly, young scholars and lecturers from the South are supported in their research periods in the United States.

Support for volunteer programmes and networks

Call for Volunteers

Objective: To support interventions directly addressed to volunteer organisations (as defined by Art. 32 of the Italian Legislative Decree 117/2017) to carry out and consolidate their ordinary activities.

During the pandemic, volunteering played a central role in supporting and helping local communities, working effectively and often fundamentally alongside the public sector, especially in the social and health sphere.

The financial support of Fondazione con il Sud goes directly to voluntary organisations to carry out ordinary activities in the southern provinces that received the least resources from the Foundation in the 2007-2021 period: Avellino in Campania, Brindisi and Taranto in Puglia, Nuoro in Sardinia, and Caltanissetta in Sicily.

Resources: EUR 3 million.

Modalities: The support to organisations is not linked to the submission of a project or a work programme, but is based on the recognition of their experience, management capacity and local impact, with the aim of strengthening their commitment and activity in their local communities. Ordinary activities are supported with a contribution of EUR 10, 20 or 30 thousand, based on the average income over the last five years.

State of the art: 213 applications were received in response to the call, of which 137 were financed following a comparative assessment based on a combination of qualitative (45%) and partial (55%) criteria calculated on the basis of the information and data entered in the forms on Chàiros.

2023 Training of Southern Third Sector Managers (FQTS)

The Foundation has confirmed its support to the training project for third-sector executives - for a total amount of EUR 995,200- aimed at strengthening the networking and training process of third-sector organization representatives in Southern Italy and the growth of their organisational, managerial and relational skills and capabilities.

Community Foundations

Supporting the promotion and establishment of community foundations in the southern regions of Italy is a strategic line of action for the FCS which is closely linked to its social infrastructuring mission.

Community foundations are autonomous entities that can provide highly effective instruments of subsidiarity through the collection, enhancement and deployment of resources in the context of reference.

Objective: Contributing to the creation of a significant number of community foundations in the southern regions with assets of at least EUR 5 million, in order to ensure the sustainability of their activities over time and the achievement of attracting other donations.

Modalities and resources: Support to the establishment of community foundations and the constitution of their assets are achieved through grant matching mechanisms, which promote independent fundraising by the community foundations themselves. Fondazione CON IL SUD's support consists first and foremost in doubling the initial assets raised by the community foundation, between a minimum of EUR 300,000 and a maximum of EUR 500,000. In addition to this measure, there are others designed to consolidate the community foundation's capital structure up to a maximum of EUR 2.5 million in total and contribute to the initial disbursement activity, covering the management costs of specific projects aimed at supporting fundraising activities (up to EUR 200,000 per year for social initiatives and EUR 25,000 for fundraising projects for the first five years – three plus two renewable – respectively).

In order to continue supporting community foundations beyond the five-year period, the Foundation has earmarked additional resources of EUR 1 million to be allocated on a one-off basis to specific projects submitted by community foundations.

State of the art: In 2023, the Foundation continued to support local communities interested in sustaining the establishment of a community foundation in their local area and to back the 7 community foundations in Southern Italy that were established thanks to the Foundation's work: the Salerno community foundation, the community foundation of the historic centre of Naples, Messina community foundation, Val di Noto community foundation, San Gennaro community foundation, Agrigento and Trapani community foundation, Benevento community foundation.

Other funded initiatives

In 2023, the Foundation promoted further 26 initiatives, for a total amount of EUR 739,500.

These are grants aimed at supporting initiatives that support the third sector or the Foundation's interest in specific study and research topics.

Co-financed initiatives and projects

Objective: In order to pursue its mission, Fondazione con il Sud values relations and cooperation with bodies and institutions that share its spirit and objectives. In this sense, it has launched a specific line of action aimed at promoting interventions in the South in conjunction with other granting bodies, in order to catalyse additional resources from the private social sector to respond to the demand coming from the southern regions.

Co-financing initiatives, in fact, allow for a 'leverage' effect on the South and for an activation of social infrastructuring mechanisms to upstream the disbursement process.

Resources: EUR 2.7 million.

Modalities: As set out in the Regulation on co-financing initiatives, the participation modalities and selection criteria relating to this line of action envisage that the Foundation may make available up to a maximum of 50% of the total financial resources provided.

State of the art: In 2023, the Foundation launched co-financing initiatives with other funding bodies by promoting individual interventions. It also renewed its cooperation with Fondazione Peppino Vismara, Enel Cuore, Intesa San Paolo, Unicredit, Fondazione San Zeno and other funding bodies.

Twelve initiatives were supported with resources amounting to EUR 2,571,000. The same amount was made available by co-financers.

International partnerships and co-financing calls

Over the years, the Foundation has established collaborations with other granting bodies, sharing expertise and financial contributions for the implementation of joint calls for proposals and initiatives. In addition to its funding activities, the Foundation offers support and technical assistance to foundations both Italian and foreign funding bodies, interested in supporting third sector organisations committed to the South and its social infrastructure.

With the aim of increasing the resources allocated to the third sector in Southern Italy and, where possible, its own funding capacity, the Foundation continues to carry out a major philanthropic intermediation role, free of charge. This type of collaboration also makes it possible to tackle new issues or experiment with new funding and intervention methods. In addition to the advantages already mentioned, it is also interesting to note a positive peer-learning effect among the contact persons of the various parties involved.

In the current national and global scenario, partnerships are true alliances that enable funding bodies to share their strategies and interventions to have greater collective impact.

Within the more general framework of Institutional Partnerships, the Foundation has established collaborative relationships with other private foundations, both national and international, with strong expertise in specific sectors. These initiatives have taken different forms over time, in consideration of the different operating and management methods of the bodies involved, as well as the characteristics of the recipients and the sectors of intervention.

The year 2023 also saw an increase in the re-granting initiatives implemented in collaboration with international organisations that entrusted the Foundation with the management of the selection, disbursement, accompaniment and monitoring activities for the organisations and projects in the South of Italy.

As part of its Career readiness programme, the **JP Morgan Chase Foundation awarded Fondazione CON IL SUD a grant of EUR 1,640,000** to be allocated to a co-financing initiative with the social enterprise Con i Bambini, using a re-granting mechanism made possible by the equivalency determination obtained in the US. A call for proposals was defined with the title 'Crescere è un lavoro', aiming at improving the system of guidance and transition from school to work and/or higher education and its effectiveness in supporting students in making informed decisions about their future.

In January 2023, Fondazione CON IL SUD concluded a EUR 1 million regranting agreement with an **International foundation** to support southern civil society organisations committed to the fight against gender-based violence. Guidance for the identification of organisations and projects to be supported was based in particular on the theme of women's empowerment, through the involvement of feminist organisations that Fondazione CON IL SUD has previously supported. The hearing process led to the identification of four organisations combating gender-based violence and promoting women's empowerment.

The regranting schemes also include the **European project SOFIGREEN co-financed by the European Commission** within the call SMP-COSME-2022-SEE which includes an international partnership led by Fondazione MeSSina and 7 other organisations dealing with social and ecological innovation, social finance intermediaries and philanthropic bodies operating in three advanced regional areas (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in France, Southern Italian regions and Andalusia in Spain).

As part of the institutional partnerships launched or renewed during 2023, the Foundation adheres to networks of national and international organisations, such as Assifero – the network of Italian funding bodies; Ariadne – the European network involving over 600 philanthropic organisations that support processes of social change and, more generally, human rights; ASVIS – the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, set up to raise awareness among Italian citizens, economic actors and institutions of the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; Philea – the European network of philanthropic bodies and networks; Filiera Futura – which aims at promoting innovation and supporting the uniqueness and competitiveness of the agrifood sector; OMA – the Observatory on Artistic Crafts, which is committed to safeguarding and promoting artistic craftsmanship and the heritage of art professions.

The Foundation also supports the Social Impact Agenda for Italy whose mission is to contribute to strengthening the Italian ecosystem for social impact investments in favour of the growth of social entrepreneurship, and also supports the Inequalities Diversity Forum which aims at building consensus around public policies and collective actions that reduce inequalities and promote the full development of every person.

Since 2018, the Foundation has also been a member of the Forum for Sustainable Finance which promotes the knowledge and practice of sustainable investment, with the aim of disseminating the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria in financial products and processes.

Results of the awarded projects and co-financing calls in numbers

The following are the main results in terms of interventions implemented:

- **426 SCHOOLS** and **250,000 MINORS** have been involved in various types of educational pathways.
- **400 MUNICIPAL** administrations, **5 REGIONS** with different departments and councillorships, **22 PROVINCIAL** administrations have been involved.
- **34 UNIVERSITIES**, **21 RESEARCHERS** of excellence and approximately **10,000 GRADUATES** and post-graduates have been involved.
- **40 ASSETS** of historical and artistic value were enhanced.
- **14 ASSETS** for sporting activities were supported.
- **57 AREAS** protected for environmental impact activities have been protected and supported.
- **24 PENAL** Institutions for minors or adults have been involved.
- **17 WASTE** reduction or reuse centres were set up.
- **86 CONFISCATED** properties have been targeted.
- **21 DAY-CARE** centres and **12 RESIDENTIAL** facilities for the elderly and disabled were activated.
- **7 LODGINGS** and **32 BEDS** for housing struggling people have been activated.
- **100 HECTARES** of land were redeveloped through cultivation or grazing.
- **13 HOUSING** centres for women victims of violence have been activated or upgraded.
- **28,000 FOREIGN** nationals were involved in social activities.
- **4,500 NEW JOB** placements have been realised.
- **EUR 22 MILLION** have been raised from third-party co-financing bodies to support initiatives in the South.
- **60,000 VOLUNTEERS** were activated.
- **244 NEW ORGANISATIONS** were established.
- **7 COMMUNITY** foundations were established.
- **15 EDITIONS** of the Training of Southern Third Sector Managers programme have been supported.
- **570 BICYCLES**, **180 ELECTRIC VEHICLES**, **13 CARS** and **11 MINIBUSES** to be made available for sustainable mobility services.

THE ORGANISATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT MODEL

Governance

The Statute of Fondazione CON IL SUD provides for a dual governance structure (Steering body and Management body), in line with the best international practices in governance.

The Board of Directors oversees the management of the Foundation, and the Steering Committee is responsible for general guidance and the definition of intervention criteria and plans. Both bodies are chaired by the President. The Board of Directors, whose members are in office for five years and may be re-elected for one further term, is composed of nine members: four representing the founding Foundations, four representing the founding volunteer bodies, and the President of the Foundation. The Board of Directors appoints the General Manager, who oversees the management of the Foundation.

The Steering Committee, whose members are in office for five years and may only be re-elected for one further term, is composed of twenty members, also representing the founding Foundations and the founding volunteer bodies in equal proportions.

Alongside these two bodies, there is the Board of Founders, which is composed of the founders and plays a decisive role not only in guaranteeing the impartiality of the appointment process of the bodies, but also as a reference subject for opinions submitted by the Steering Committee or the Board of Directors.

There are also two control bodies, a Board of Statutory Auditors and an Auditor, both appointed by the Board of Founders.

During 2023, the offices were renewed and the President, new members of the Board of Directors, the Steering Committee and the Board of Statutory Auditors were appointed. The new composition of the Foundation's bodies, which will be in office for 5 years, can be found at the following link: <https://www.fondazioneconilsud.it/fondazione/chi-siamo/organi/>

Assets

The founding assets of Fondazione CON IL SUD amount to EUR 314.801.028.

The Foundation's institutional activities are supported by the income resulting from the management of the assets with which it is endowed and by operating resources made available by the founding bodies on the basis of a multi-year commitment.

For the 2022-2026 period, the Banking Foundations adhering to ACRI, the Italian Association of Foundations and Savings Banks have confirmed their commitment to supporting the activities of Fondazione CON IL SUD to achieve its mission.

As at 31 December 2023, the Foundation's net assets amounted to EUR 426,162,425.

The Articles of Association entrust the Steering Committee with the responsibility of defining the guidelines for the management of the assets, identifying the general principles and strategic objectives of the investment policies; instead, the Board of Directors is responsible for managing the assets in compliance with these guidelines.

The guidelines approved by the Steering Committee define the strategic-instrumental role of the management of financial resources, so that it produces the resources needed to maximise the social impact of the Foundation's institutional interventions. To this end, the management of assets is inspired by criteria of risk diversification of investments, according to parameters that conveniently combine the need to preserve their value and obtain a suitable return from them, as adequate for the pursuit of institutional purposes.

In order to achieve these objectives, the Board of Directors identifies long-term and short-term benchmarks with reference to the trend allocation of assets in diversified equity investments, diversified bond investments, government bonds and alternative investments with a low risk profile, also taking into account ethical criteria.

Assets in excess of the net worth are deployed in investments so as to minimise the financial risk over a period of time equal to the average financial duration of the Foundation's commitments.

In order to ensure the continuity of institutional activities and in line with the provisions of its Articles of Association, the Foundation has set up a special fund for the stabilisation of disbursements. The fund is normally expanded by the surplus of the financial years in which the return on assets exceeds the objectives, and is used to support the institutional activities of the financial years in which the return on assets is lower than the objectives, without prejudice to any further opportunities to replenish the fund.

The organisational structure

Since its establishment, the Foundation's organisational structure has been inspired by the principles of efficiency, flexibility and diversity. In each of its components, the Foundation pays constant attention to maintaining a healthy, efficient ratio between the resources employed and the activities performed. While taking into account the skills required to perform all the tasks envisaged, the interchangeability of resources and people's ability to cope with the changing needs dictated by the complexity of their tasks is encouraged. People's enthusiasm, dedication and ideality are cultivated in internal relations.

The Foundation's structure is divided into the following organisational areas:

- **General Management.**
- **Administration, Finance and Secretarial Area.**
- **Communication and External Relations Area.**
- **Institutional Activities Area**(coordination and technical-operational management of calls for proposals; co-financing initiatives; community foundations; processing of funding applications; institutional partnerships; technical and financial monitoring; information systems).

The areas are integrated with the corresponding and similar operational areas of the subsidiary 'Con i Bambini', with which all the main apical functions are shared.

As at 31 December 2023, the Foundation's workforce counts on 25 employees (18 women and 7 men).

As regards to personnel hiring process, the Foundation has had an internal procedure in place since its establishment to ensure that the best professional profiles are identified in relation to open positions. Through the publication of job adverts on its website, applications are collected and subjected to an initial assessment on a curricular basis. Subsequently, the candidates deemed most suitable are examined in cognitive interviews, and a shortlist of candidates is identified and submitted to the Board of Directors for final selection.

In carrying out its activities and in compliance with the abovementioned organisational principles, the Foundation makes use of external resources and expertise according to specific needs, with particular reference to the asset management process and the ex-ante evaluation of project proposals.

The operational and evaluation model

The Foundation adopts an operational management model aimed at achieving efficiency, effectiveness and, above all, maximum transparency, so that its actions can be clear, understandable and shareable by all stakeholders.

With this in mind, an organisational model was adopted pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree 231/01, which is also subject to a constant process of updating and improvement (the last revision, aimed at introducing the whistleblowing device, was in progress as of 31 December 2023 and was completed in March 2024). The model defines the Foundation's procedural corpus, a system of rules that all those who work in the name of and on behalf of the Foundation are required to observe, both in internal and external relations. The Supervisory Board is in charge of overseeing the implementation and observance of the model.

The operating model identifies the following specific procedures (each described in a specific internal protocol):

- Budgeting
- Passive cycle
- Management of employees and collaborators
- Management of relations with the Public Administration
- Payment management
- Grant management and disbursement (ex-ante evaluation; monitoring; settlement; withdrawals)

Pursuant to Article 37 of European Regulation 679/2016 (GDPR) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, Fondazione CON IL SUD has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO).

The selection of project proposals

The selection of project applications received in response to calls for proposals published by the Foundation is governed by a procedure approved by the Board of Directors, which normally involves the following players:

- The Foundation's Institutional Activities area, which draws up a preliminary eligibility and merit assessment based on the criteria set out in the call/invitation and supports the partnerships with accompanying and co-design activities.
- Independent experts, who may be appointed by the Board of Directors, with appropriate skills in the field of intervention of the call/invitation, who carry out the assessment of the proposals with reference to the technical/specialist requirements.
- A working group consisting of the members of the Board of Directors, any experts appointed, the Director and the Foundation's staff, which examines the evaluation of the proposals carried out by the experts and prepares a proposal for the Board's approval.
- The Board of Directors, which delivers its assessment and deliberates on the projects to be funded on the basis of the work carried out and presented by the Director.

Following the resolution of the Board of Directors, the Foundation's offices communicate the results of the selection process to all participants, not only to increase the level of transparency of its processes, but also to provide useful elements for them to refine their project skills and increase their chances of seeing future project proposals funded.

The evaluation procedure combines the Foundation's in-house technical expertise – referring mainly to the characteristics of the proposing partnership, the quality of the project execution, the quality and relevance of the co-financing, etc – and the specialised skills of the experts in the fields of intervention with the strategic vision and knowledge of the Third Sector possessed by the Board of Directors.

The main evaluation criteria, as identified by the Steering Committee, integrated for each call/invitation specifically in relation to the aims pursued, are:

a) With regard to the proposed idea:

- Consistency with the aims of the initiatives implemented by the Foundation
- Intervention strategy and its effectiveness
- Innovative content
- Social impact

b) With regard to the characteristics of the partnership:

- Competence and professionalism
- Transparency and reliability

- Networking and representativeness of the local area
- Contribution of resources from other actors

c) With regard to project quality:

- Knowledge of the problem and context
- Internal consistency between objectives, strategy, resources and timeframe
- Efficient and effective use of resources
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Continuity, sustainability and replicability of actions
- Communication

In 2017, the Foundation successfully introduced a new IT platform (called Chàiros) that makes it possible for the organizations to participate in calls for proposals and initiatives by submitting the relevant documentation. The web platform was built entirely in free-of-use development environments and with open-source components. It can manage numerous calls for proposals simultaneously and enables a large number of users (at least 5,000) to 'apply' without any loss of performance. The new system also allows for the online management of all monitoring and reporting activities, with the complete digitisation of document acquisition processes.

Monitoring and evaluation of supported initiatives

The monitoring and evaluation process is aimed at collaborating with the implementing bodies, supporting them in the execution of project activities. It is not only a tangible way of showing attention to the recipients of the grants, but also an act of responsibility and commitment to stakeholders on the correct use of resources and the achievement of the Foundation's institutional aims.

The Institutional Activities area, and in particular the monitoring function, follows the initiatives starting from the evaluation phase up to several years after their conclusion. In order to ensure maximum continuity in the evaluation process, each initiative is followed throughout its implementation by the same staff members.

The process provides for the collection of useful information to understand the progress of initiatives, verify the achievement of expected results, promote the dissemination of good practices and intervene in critical cases. This ensures an effective circular process of returning information and data from the monitoring (in itinere and ex-post) to the selection process (ex-ante).

The focus on monitoring makes it possible to: i) understand the impact produced by the funded initiatives in terms of the number and type of organisations involved, the dissemination of actions in the local area, and the recipients of the projects; ii) assess whether the funded actions comply with the planned implementation methods and what effects they produce in the local area in terms of effectiveness and growth of social capital, thus progressively feeding into the Foundation's planning and policy-making process and allowing for an ever greater refinement of the intervention methodologies.

The monitoring activity is divided into two main areas of analysis:

- a) economic-financial monitoring, which examines the costs incurred by the funded projects and provides for a formal and substantial consistency check of the expenses incurred;
- b) technical monitoring, which examines the implementation processes of the funded projects and the degree to which the expected results and objectives have been achieved.

Besides during the implementation of the projects (in itinere) and at their conclusion, the evaluation is prolonged with a survey carried out years after the formal termination of the initiatives, in order to detect what legacy they have left in the local area (ex-post monitoring).

In addition to the information gathered through the verification forms, the Foundation's supervision is enhanced by field visits, which provide an opportunity for the Foundation and the various local stakeholders to meet and get to know each other.

The regular availability of data on the progress of the projects and the continuous exchange of information allow for an evaluation effort that deepens both the implementation processes implemented by the individual projects and the results and objectives achieved.

The results of the monitoring work are processed annually in a 'monitoring report', which is then submitted to the Foundation's governing bodies. This has become a useful opportunity to reflect on the work of the Foundation and on the achievement of its medium- and long-term objectives.

The Foundation's staff is engaged in continuous monitoring and evaluation activities aimed at accompanying the projects in achieving the set results and respecting the objectives of the various funding lines and the body's strategic mission priorities.

The operational application of the monitoring and evaluation functions takes place through the IT platform www.chairos.it, as designed and developed directly by the Foundation.

The platform enables the management of data relating to all phases of the project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation processes: partnership data, project proposals, ex-ante evaluation processes, result indicators, activity progress, direct recipients of interventions, expenditure reporting, disbursement management, in itinere, final and ex-post evaluation processes.

COMMUNICATION AS A MISSION

In our Foundation, communication is not only a tool for promoting its mission, but a means of implementing it.

The main communication tools used during 2023 are the ones listed below .

- **www.fondazioneconilsud.it** is the main instrument to get to know the Foundation, the promoted initiatives and calls for proposals, to consult the fact sheets and blogs of funded projects. It has an English version, is fully accessible and is updated frequently. In 2023, the site recorded 393 thousand page views and 196 thousand hits.
- **www.esperienzeconilsud.it** is the network of initiatives supported by the Foundation. Each project has a space to tell, promote and share the activities carried out. 344 blogs are present on the portal and about 600 organisations are registered.
- **www.conmagazine.it** : from a traditional in-depth analysis portal, in May 2021 it became a 'participatory' video magazine, created 'with' the communicators of the projects supported (see next paragraph for more details)
- **www.bilanciodimissione.it** is the site dedicated to the Foundation's Mission Statement and, for the past six years, also to the Statement of Con i Bambini, a social enterprise entirely owned by the Foundation. The Statement is therefore entirely 'browsable', allowing for maximum accessibility of the information and data contained in the document.
- **www.funder35.it** is the website of Funder35, an initiative born in 2012 within Acri's Commission for Cultural Activities and Heritage. The project is promoted by 18 foundations of banking origin and Fondazione CON IL SUD, which also oversees its communication.
- **www.socialfilmfundconilsud.it** is the website of the 'Social Film Production with the South', an initiative promoted by Fondazione CON IL SUD and Fondazione Apulia Film Commission with the aim of narrating Southern Italy through the social phenomena that characterise it. This unique experiment promotes active collaboration between film production companies of any nationality and organisations of the Southern Third Sector.
- **www.conilsud.it** is the site dedicated to telling the story of the annual event promoted by the Foundation on the occasion of its 'birthday'.
- **Social media**: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Youtube provide an opportunity to share ideas, news and good practices with users. In 2023, the Foundation activated a total of 150 thousand interactions through social media.
- **Press Office**: in 2023, media interest in Fondazione CON IL SUD's initiatives was confirmed. Agencies, radio, TV, newspapers and periodicals, and information web portals gave ample space to the calls for proposals, the projects supported and the stories of the protagonists, with a positive result in terms of positioning in sector and generalist, national and local media. The 2023 press review recorded a total of 5,678 issues (with an estimated economic value of over EUR 13 million).
- **App CON IL SUD**: this is the Foundation's official app, which allows users to access information, content, previews and services easily through a single tool. To date, it has been downloaded by more than 3,126 users, of which 320 in 2023.
- **Electronic newsletter**: another web tool used by the Foundation to update stakeholders (institutions, foundations, the third sector, the media, citizens) on the opportunities offered and the interventions supported in the South is the sending of a digital newsletter. The newsletter has an opening rate over 10 percentage points higher than the sector average.

Furthermore, the Foundation has implemented a 'participatory' approach according to which each selected project is required to have a communication contact person who is a member of the Order of Journalists and/or an expert in the field of social media. After the conclusion of a call for proposals, the Foundation promotes at least two operational meetings with the communication contact persons of the selected projects to share a common vision and a participatory communication strategy.

With regards to 2023, the following initiatives stand out in particular:

- **'CON IL SUD, un futuro già visto. Il manifesto alla rovescia**: il sociale prima dell'economico per uno sviluppo possibile' (i.e. 'CON IL SUD, a future already seen. An upside-down manifesto: social before economic issues for possible development': on the 12 May 2023, on the occasion of the end of office of Prof. Carlo Borgomeo – who led the Foundation for 14 years – Fondazione CON IL SUD organised an event at Parco Verde in Caivano (NA), a place that has become a symbol of decay and abandonment, as an ideal reminder of what 'social over economic issues' can mean in terms of development logic and policies in the South. Hundreds of representatives from the world of Foundations and the Third Sector reached Parco Verde to take part in this day of reflection on the future of the South, which also marked President Stefano Consiglio's taking over. To mark the event, a mural was created by Palermo-born artist Igor Scalisi Palminteri. The work, depicting two little girls holding a small plant, was commissioned by Fondazione CON IL SUD and donated to the community of Parco Verde.
- **'CON Magazine'**: after the mid-2021 launch of the new edition, Con Magazine, the editorial project of Fondazione CON IL SUD and Con i Bambini, continued to consolidate its online presence. In 2023, 73 videos were published (253 in total) and the website registered 52,000 hits. A new editorial collaboration was launched with Corriere della Sera Buone Notizie on the subject of 'textbook work', in addition to the two already underway: 'Spaces not to be missed' with AskaNews and TG Giovani with Italtpress.
- **'Il tesoro del Sud. Viaggio nel Paese che cambia'** (The Treasure of the South. A journey through a changing country): a documentary by Alessandro Marinelli produced by Fondazione CON IL SUD which illustrates some experiences of change in the areas supported by the Foundation over the years. The documentary premiered at the Cinema Farnese in Rome, and at the 53rd edition of the Giffoni Film Festival.

- **'1 minuto di bellezza'** (i.e. '1 minute of beauty') video contest: 2023 saw the promotion of the '1 minuto di Bellezza' video contest, which called on young people and video-makers living in the South of Italy to tell the story of the beauty of the South beyond stereotypes through a 60-second video. The initiative was promoted together with Fondazione Magna Grecia and was attended by a good number of participants from all the regions of the South. The most significant works for the two categories (reels and short films) were selected by a jury chaired by Rai Play Director Elena Capparelli.
- **Tauromachies exhibition at the Pythagorean Museum in Crotona** organised by the Embassy of Spain in Italy, Fondazione CON IL SUD, and FOQUS Fondazione Quartieri Spagnoli with the collaboration of the Jobel Consortium – the body managing the Pythagorean Museum and Gardens. In addition, 2023 saw the continuation of the collaboration between the cultural office of the Spanish Embassy with Foqus and Fondazione di Comunità di Messina – born years ago from the joint work of the former and Fondazione CON IL SUD to bring cultural events and the Spanish and Latin American film festival (of which the Foundation is a partner) to Southern Italy.
- **'Ci stiamo lavorando. Attiviamo le energie delle comunità'** (i.e. 'We are working on it. Activating the energy of communities'): an initiative promoted by Acri and Assifero on the 11th European Day of Foundations. The aim was to draw attention to the many initiatives spread throughout the country that focus on work as the key to self-determination and social inclusion. Fondazione CON IL SUD joined the campaign by sharing experiences and testimonies of inclusive work both directly and through the projects it has supported in recent years.
- **NRRP Report:** Two studies on the NRRP carried out by Prof. Gianfranco Viesti and commissioned by Fondazione CON IL SUD were published during the year. The first, the results of which help to dispel certain stereotypes about the presence of PA in the municipalities of the South, had excellent media visibility and was one of the most viewed contents on the Foundation's website.
- **April Fools':** along the lines of Prof. Viesti's studies, April 1 saw us publish the fake news of a Sardinian municipality that had hired over-80s employees to manage NRRP funds. The news was relaunched on the web and much shared and commented on social media by some users who had believed the joke. The operation, which was later revealed, was a provocation to reflect on the issue of the development of the South but also on the power of fake news.
- **Christmas with the South:** once again this year, the Foundation supported the promotion of gifts and hampers made by projects and organisations supported over time through a dedicated page on its institutional website. The page recorded 2636 views, bringing hundreds of hits to each of the e-commerce pages of the linked projects.





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