

**PROYECTO
B! EN
RESTITUIDO**

**TOWARDS
A NATIONAL
MANAGEMENT
AND SOCIAL REUSE
OF SEIZED
AND FORFEITED
ASSETS ACT**



**Funded by the
European Union**

Why is it key to have a management and social reuse of assets act

Fighting against organized crime groups through the recovery of assets, **while placing citizenship at the core of the agenda**, allows criminal property used as a tool, as the proceeds of and/or for the benefit of intricate criminal activities to be turned into common property, which can be socially and economically reused by the State and society as a whole.

The social reuse of assets stands as a practice enabling the State **to observe its duty to redress the damage** inflicted upon criminal activities direct victims and even upon the indirect ones, namely involving the entire civil society, and above all, the most vulnerable sectors.

In Argentina there are laws, decree laws, legal orders and resolutions which lay out slight amendments to **a law having remained effective for almost 50 years**. Many of those laws, decree laws, legal orders and resolutions are overlapping and others are contradictory.

Assets are permanently seized, impounded and forfeited by means of legal proceedings, though in most cases, they end up being destroyed, **thus, their value and usefulness being lost**. In turn, the State “invests” in human and material resources aimed at their storage and maintenance.

The current **cases of reuse of assets are deemed as occasional, isolated practices** and assets are reused at the behest of women and men judges who, along with some of the civil society organizations or State agencies agree to embrace this new type of restorative practice.

It is paramount to develop a novel statutory framework based on a modern, accurate sustainable development, economics and gender-based pragmatic approach suited to these new times’ needs, and in line with Argentina’s commitment embedded into the undersigning of international agreements.

After two years of work, dialogue and training courses nationwide, “Bien Restituido”, along with many other civil society organizations, has drawn up a bill aimed at the development of a new seamless, democratic, transparent system for the management of criminal organizations seized and forfeited assets and for the adoption of a social reuse State policy. In line with a broad dialogue and the building of consensus with members of the Legislative Branch, the foregoing bill reached Argentina’s House of Representatives in December 2022 for its discussion at the Congress, and was undersigned by different political forces’ lawmakers.

CORE CONTENTS

1

It lays down **an undivided proceedings and social reuse policy** so that the State ensures the adequate care, management and use of those assets subject to injunctions and seizures enforced in federal jurisdiction criminal cases.

2

It sets up a **National Public Registry** of seized and recovered assets.

3

It promotes the creation of a **Federal Agency for the democratic, efficient and transparent management of assets, while involving several civil society and State entities that ensure the social use of those assets.**

4

It includes the seizure of personal and real property (such as apartments, houses, and motor vehicles) as well as that of productive and/or trading units.

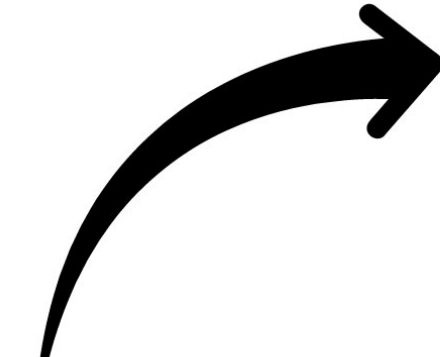
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It will allow the State to save resources for the care of those assets, for the maintenance of their value and the streamlining of their economic and social use.

Some of our actions leading to the introduction of this act

-  **Training for men and women judges, prosecutors, and other Judiciary officers** all over the country through asynchronous online courses.
-  **Civil Society organizations workshops** offered in inland Argentina (Guaqueguaychú, Mar del Plata and Salta).
-  **Ongoing dialogue with several key stakeholders** and government officers.
-  Publication of the **Research initiative** entitled: "The organized crime assets recovery system in Argentina: **state of affairs** and appraisal of an assets proposal towards their social use".
-  Tribute to women victims of criminal violence during the exhibition of the Latin American group of artists. (UNA(s)+ at former ESMA).
-  International Conference entitled: "Social reuse of organized crime assets: an opportunity for Society and the State" delivered at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law".
-  ALAS (Latin America, Social Alternative) Network Meeting in Buenos Aires which involved an exchange of experiences and strategies for the social reuse of assets in Latin America
-  Publications and journalistic reports available in diverse national and international mass media sources.

THE ROAD AHEAD



Supporting novel, developing experiences for assets social reuse.

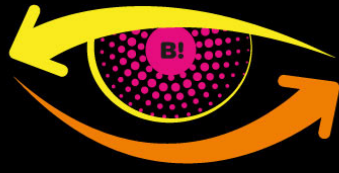
Designing a website with a geo-referencing system of assets seized and forfeited at a country-wide level.

Actively encouraging debate on the public agenda for the bill discussion at the Congress.

Pursuing the forging of new alliances which claim for and develop this State policy along with civil society.

SPONSORING PARTIES





PROYECTO **B! EN** RESTITUIDO



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The “Bien Restituido” (Recovered Assets) initiative focuses on stripping assets from organized crime groups and on the strengthening of civil society as an initiative to contribute to sustainable development and even to that of Argentina by turning criminal proceeds into common property, which may be socially and economically used primarily by the most vulnerable sectors. It is a consortium of organizations made up by Libera, Associations, names and numbers against mafias, Circolo Giuridico di Argentina; the Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ) and Multipolar Foundation. This initiative is funded by the European Union Delegation in Argentina.

This material has been devised in line with the European Union’s financial support. The sole liability for its contents lies with Libera, Associations, names and numbers against mafias, Multipolar Foundation, the Civil Association for Equality and Justice and with the Circolo Giuridico di Argentina, and does not necessarily mirror the European Union’s viewpoints.

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