PILOT #4: TOOLS AND DATABASES TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

**PARTNERS**

- CrimeTech
- IRPI
- Università Cattolica

**DELIVERABLES**

- Report on accessibility to sensitive and privately-owned databases (COESO D.2.8)
- Report on the technical and legal framework for sharing confidential data (COESO D.2.9)

**GOAL**

Jointly develop approaches and tools to support the investigation of transnational organised and financial crime by researchers and journalists. COESO’s Pilot 4 is aimed at creating a collaborative space between CrimeTech, as representative of the research community, and IRPI, as a representative of civil society/investigative journalists.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Improving journalistic investigations on corruption, collusion and financial crime
- Improving the joint development of IT tools
- Setting a sustainable framework for sharing sensitive data between researchers and journalists

Through COESO, Transcrime and IRPI have improved the legal framework in which to use the DATACROS tool (www.transcrime.it/datacros2), and applied the DATACROS tool to selected high risk economic sectors such as the:

- Real estate
- Maritime industry

**WHY THESE 2 SECTORS?**

- Complex ownership structures in which it is often difficult to identify the ultimate beneficial owner
- High risk of financial crime and tax fraud
- High risk of corruption, collusion and organized crime
- Strong impact in terms of increased inequality for the civil society

**FOCUS ON**

Investigations by IrpiMedia applying the COESO approach and the DATACROS tool:

- **Real Estate**
  - Cities for rent: an investigation mapping real estate market conditions in Europe, using Milan as the Italian example.
  - Which complex and opaque business structures own important buildings of the Italian metropolitan city
- **Maritime Industry**
  - How maritime companies owned by people close to the Syrian regime are using opaque business structures to export drugs such as Captagon from Syria
  - The consequences of opaque structures on the conditions of maritime workers of Turkish-Azerbaijani maritime companies

**FRAMEWORK FOR SENSITIVE DATA SHARING**

Journalists and researchers often carry out the same investigations of competent authorities but face some specific challenges:

**Legal challenges**

- We cannot benefit from the same regulatory safe conducts as law enforcement agencies.
- We have different legal bases for engaging in a lawful processing.
- We need to take into account the limitation of the GDPR.

**Technical challenges**

We need to put in place technical mechanisms so as to preserve:

- **personal data protection** (of both data subjects and journalists)
- **sensitivity** of the information shared
- **integrity and quality** of the information
- **accessibility of information** both for authors and readers

The tools we need to use have to comply with these constraints and limitations.

**DATA CROS TOOL**