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PRESS RELEASE

FOMENTO - Fostering mediation in cross-border civil and succession matters

*A new EU-funded project officially launched to promote a better access to justice
for all European citizens*

Rome, November 15th 2017 – We are proud to announce the launch of the European project “*FOMENTO - Fostering mediation in cross-border civil and succession matters*”. The two-year initiative, **co-funded by the European Commission within the Justice Programme 2014-2020**, has formally started on October 2nd, 2017.

The project will contribute to securing better access to justice for all European citizens by promoting a widespread and more effective use of alternative and online dispute resolution methods (ADR and ODR) as extra judicial means to prevent and solve cross-border controversies in civil and succession matters.

FOMENTO will be implemented by a transnational Consortium of EU organizations with relevant expertise in providing highly qualified Mediation services.

The 2-day Launch Event, held in Perugia, Italy, on October 30th-31st gathered the representatives of the 5 Consortium partners and set the ground for the implementation of future activities, with a special focus on the technical aspects of the project’s management and dissemination plan.

Background: EU Legislation

Despite the numerous initiatives carried out at EU level to promote mediation as a cost-effective solution to simplify cross-border disputes - namely the **Directive 52/2008** and the **Regulation 650/2012** – the extensive implementation of the EU provisions is still hindered by multiple obstacles. These difficulties are mainly related to the lack of a mediation "culture" in Member States, notably:

- **lack of awareness** about the mediation instrument among common citizens;
- **lack of expertise** and specific knowledge among mediators on how to deal with cross-border cases;
- **lack of complementary technical instruments** and cooperation that would make the cross-border mediation more easily accessible to a wider audience.

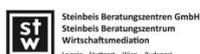
FOMENTO: mission and goals

Within this framework, FOMENTO aims to guarantee a better access to the mediation instruments in cross-border civil matters by:

- ✓ **supporting the correct and wide implementation of EU legislation**, with specific regards to EU Directive 52/2008 and Regulation 650/2012;
- ✓ **building a wide European network** of mediation centers and relevant stakeholders to pave the way to future cooperation actions;

TARGET GROUPS

- ✓ *Mediators and legal practitioners*
- ✓ *European citizens*
- ✓ *Academics*
- ✓ *Policymakers*





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- ✓ **training professional mediators** on technical and quality aspects of ADR and ODR in order to handle cross-border hereditary conflicts;
- ✓ **raising awareness among EU citizens** about the opportunities and advantages of using mediation for cross-border hereditary matters;
- ✓ **delivering recommendations to policy-makers** to improve cross-border cooperation in mediation services.

Which benefits will FOMENTO offer?

- **Mediators** will be properly trained and equipped with relevant skills related to mediation for conflict prevention in hereditary matters;
- **Legal professionals** will gain a deeper knowledge about the implementation of the EU provisions and will be connected to other colleagues and researchers through a wide European network in order to share best practices and advices on mediation issues;
- **EU citizens** will be adequately informed about the benefits of ADR and ODR for conflict prevention in cross-border disputes and will have better access to mediation services;
- **Academics** will benefit from the engagement in the EU network, sharing experiences and scientific perspective about technical aspects of the implementation of the EU provisions;
- **Policymakers** will be better informed about weak spots as well as replicable endeavors related to the implementation of the EU legislation in the mediation field.

Consortium



Resolutia - Gestione delle controversie (Italy)



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