

## The rebirth of the Alto Belice Corleonese region through the recovery of lands confiscated from the mafia organisations,

LIBERA, Associations, names and numbers against mafias

Libera's mission is to regain liberated lands which were illegally seized by mafia organisations, starting with the creation and empowerment of social, independent and rural co-operatives. Located in these lands, they are able to sustainably manage their business activities, which thus contributing to the creation of induced employment, as well as spreading a virtuous economic system. This project determines the enhancement of landscape, culture, local identity, material and immaterial heritage based on legality, social justice and responsible and sustainable tourism. The "Placido Rizzotto-Libera Terra Co-operative" was the first initiative of this kind in the region of Alto Belice Corleonese. This project concerned the recovery of an area of more than 500 hectares confiscated by mafia organisations which had been illegally seized by them and abandoned for many years, as well as rural buildings and historically relevant manor farms. Libera has promoted a recovery and requalification action on these assets, focusing particularly on the enhancement in terms of nature maintenance and protection and rural and landscape recovery.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe conferred a special mention of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention for the 3rd Session 2012-2013 for "Strengthening democracy" to the project of the revival of Alto Belice Corleonese that relates to the recovery of land from mafia organisations, which was illegally seized by them. This project of great interest encompasses a combination of the Council of Europe's principles: human rights, rule of law and democracy. Landscape is both the instrument and the result. The project is as much political as economic, and produces a landscape which highlights the local identity and culture. It restores the cultural dimension of the landscape and the quality of the natural environment. Organic production and local processing of farm products, the development of renewable energies and the restoration of the heritage all provide job opportunities for vulnerable populations. The outstanding level of volunteer mobilisation is one of the project's strong points.