

INTEGRITY PACTS EU'S IMPACT CASE 06

ITALY - RESTORATION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF SYBARIS

ADJUSTING THE CONTRACTING STRATEGY

CONTRACTING PROJECT INFORMATION

Country	Italy
Project	Restoration of the archaeological site of Sybaris (IT)
Project description	Development of an archaeological park in the site of Sybaris, which will allow visitors access to a recently discovered Roman-era religious temple, along with the renovation of its existing museum. The site is located on the Gulf of Taranto, in Southern Italy.
IP signature date	29/12/2016
Contracting authority	Segretariato Regionale del MiBACT Calabria (Regional Secretariat of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism in Calabria)
Managing authority	Ministero dei beni e delle attività culturali e del turismo (Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism, MiBACT), now Ministero della Cultura (Ministry of culture)
Monitoring organisation	Action Aid Italia
Procedures monitored	3
Contracts awarded	3
Current stage	Implementation
Impact categories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Promote better value for money (2) Enhance transparency and accountability (3) Foster project timeliness (4) Increase access and participation of citizens (5) Encourage competition and fairness (6) Support institutional changes

IMPACT CASE

Italy's Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (MiBACT) manages archaeological ruins, museums, and other historic buildings. In addition to their cultural value, these sites are also relevant for the development of neighbouring communities. If well preserved and maintained, they attract visitors, drive up the demand for services in the area, and foster growth and employment.

To support regional development, MiBACT's Regional Secretariat in Calabria decided to develop further an archaeological site in the South of the country called Sybaris. Recent excavations uncovered the ruins of a Roman-era temple, and adjustments and improvements were deemed necessary to attract visitors.

The project – supported by EU funds – implied interventions in two areas: the archaeological site, called *La Casa Bianca*, and the adjacent museum and exhibition space. Making them suitable for visitors required contracting specific construction and renovation works and a series of services to provide guidance and information to visitors, such as signs and multimedia installations.

To enhance transparency in the awarding and execution of these contracts, MiBACT decided to integrate an Integrity Pact (IP). Action Aid Italy joined the project as the monitoring organisation.

In the early stages of the project, MiBACT Calabria decided to carry it out in two steps and to award first the contracts for the works. Later, the rest of the services would be procured using the *Acquisti in Rete* platform. In this online marketplace, authorities buy or loan goods and services directly from pre-qualified suppliers. Considering the kind of services to be contracted and the functioning of such a procurement platform, it would be unlikely to find a single contractor that could provide all services alone.

While reviewing the planning documents, Action Aid Italy **pointed out the considerable challenges in following such a contracting strategy**. MiBACT Calabria would have to coordinate up to seven different contracts with multiple firms to secure that these were following the same visual identity and using the same or compatible materials or formats. Such an amount of work would increase the chances of delays and prolong the implementation of the project. Moreover, it increased the risk of affecting the experience of visitors negatively.

To simplify the process, the monitor **suggested merging the different service contracts into one tender**. Although it would be difficult to find a single contractor that could provide all services alone, the burden of coordination and delivery would be placed on the contractor side. It is common in public contracting that a firm acts as an integrator of different services or that a group of firms join as a consortium to provide their services jointly and win larger contracts.

MiBACT Calabria continued discussing the strategy with other authorities and ended up following Action Aid Italy's recommendation, merging all services into one tender. Additionally, the tendering phase was opened to any supplier (open procedure) and managed by Italy's National Agency for Inward Investment and Economic Development (Invitalia), a public entity that links the needs of innovative services and investments with entrepreneurs and start-up companies. Invitalia advertised, promoted, and carried out the tender for the museum and exhibition space services and awarded the contract last March 2020. A second tender for the archaeological space was also prepared.

Thanks to the Integrity Pact implemented on the restoration of the archaeological site in Italy, the contracting authority revised the contracting strategy by merging various service contracts into one, thus making the strategy more appropriate for the required services. This in turn **promoted better value for money** and **fostered project timeliness**.

This impact case was developed in the framework of the project [Integrity Pacts – Civil Control Mechanism for Safeguarding EU Funds](#), Phase 2 funded by the European Commission. It brought together government agencies, civil society and the private sector in 11 EU countries, to ensure that 18 public contracts were designed, awarded and implemented to the highest possible standards of transparency and accountability. **Last case update:** 13 July 2021.