

Observatory Case update

Convento delle Cappuccinelle, Naples, Italy

July 2022

Author(s): Jorge Mosquera, Samah Ibrahim (Eutropian)

Contributor(s): Federica Fava (Rome Tre University), Bahanur Nasya (Eutropian)



This document has been prepared in the framework of the European project OpenHeritage – Organizing, Promoting and Enabling Heritage Re-use through Inclusion, Technology, Access, Governance and Empowerment. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776766.

The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily represent the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission is responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



Convento delle Cappuccinelle

The former church complex of **San Francesco delle Cappuccinelle** is situated in the Avvocata district in Naples historical center. The convent was a juvenile jail until the end of the last century, when it had fallen into disuse and was dismissed. In 2012, The city's local network of Neapolitan Commons, a self-organized group of citizens, identified disused urban spaces around the metropolitan city of Naples. They enhanced and restored them to the public use of the entire community. Followingly in 2015, the grass-root group **Scacco Matto** occupied the jail complex to find a social purpose in the empty building and renamed it to **Scugnizzo Liberato**. The site was partly self-restored by the occupants and currently hosting community activities such as after-school programs, language classes, sports, dance, and theater. It also comprises co-working spaces, as well as art and crafts labs. Naples municipal government, the current owner of the complex, decided to support the occupant group and recognized – with a public resolution – the social value of the activities run in the complex, giving the occupants the possibility to stay and run the structure through self-management.

As a result of the pandemic, the Scugnizzo faced many challenges manifested in the suspension of cultural programming, which is the primary funding source. Although they managed to avoid the collapse of some parts of the complex, it was not easy to continue the site restoration without income. During the pandemic, the changes in the community were evident, which made the Scugnizzo team think more about addressing people's fragilities during these difficult times. The lack of cultural events gave more motivation to direct all the energies and resources to social welfare activities such as delivering aid packages to families in need, the community kitchen and the solidarity wardrobe, distributing meals, and offering assistance to the homeless. The project "**La bottega di amma**" was launched, which allowed encounters between the Scugnizzo communities and local families. The team started to collect valuable items for families with children.

The Scugnizzo community has also expanded its offers. For instance, a new carpentry activity has been added to produce income. Moreover, they welcomed the so-called PCUs, "Projects of Collective Utility", which aim to engage people receiving citizenship income through developing their capacities and interests to improve their job skills. The Scugnizzo inaugurated another space as a library in collaboration with an independent local bookshop in Naples. With municipal support the team found discovered different fundraising methods during the pandemic. The campaigns, e.g. small private supporters, communal funds financed by donations, crowdfunding, and some other events like solidarity shopping, allowed to

overcome the lack of income. As a local URBACT group, the Scugnizzo received €40,000 used to create their website <https://commonsnapoli.org/> and part of the fund was dedicated to training activities with the crowdfunding school of Rome.