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PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Project Ahead

Società cooperativa



July 2020

CAUSE

CONFISCATED ASSETS USED FOR SOCIAL EXPERIMENTATION

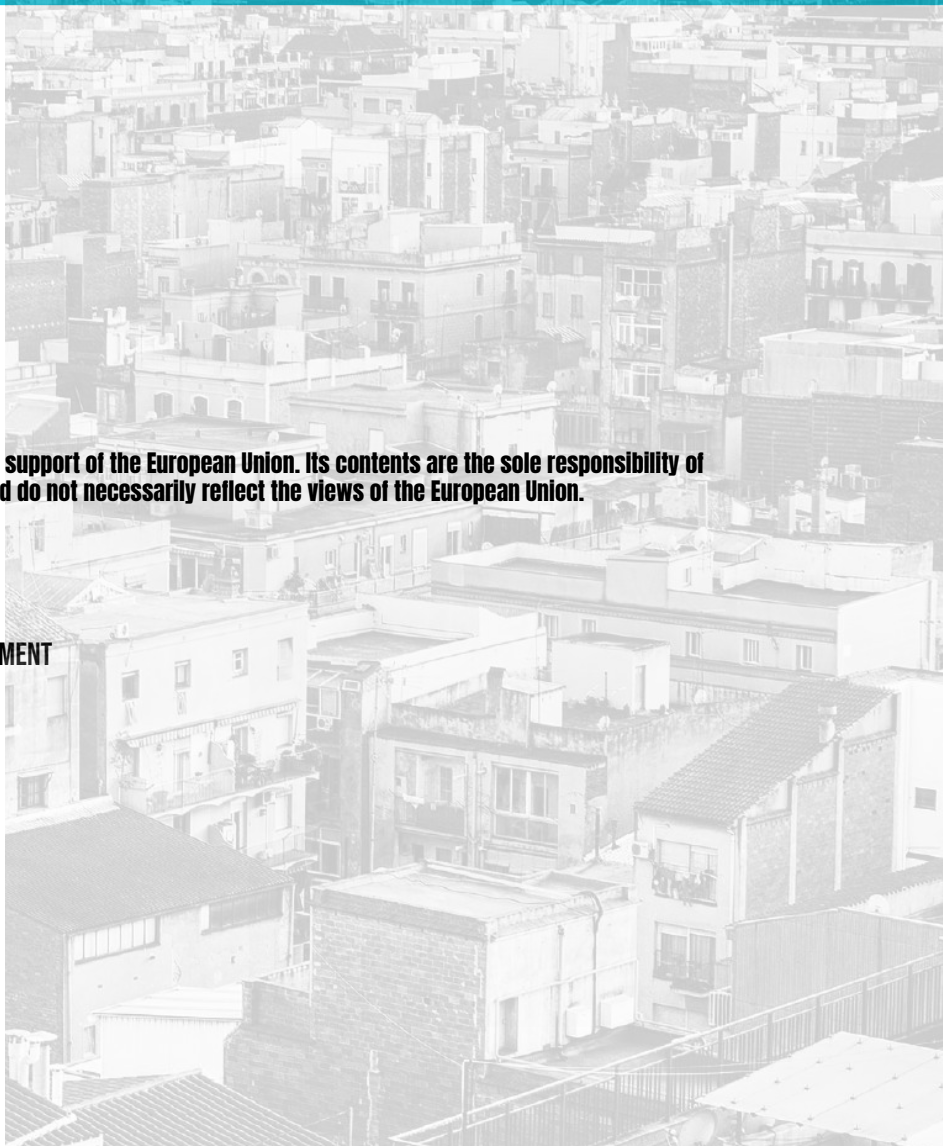


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TIRANA, ALBANIA

LAYOUT AND DESIGN : [MARIS SELAMAJ](#)





IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION, PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

CAUSE – Confiscated Assets Used for Social Experimentation was implemented by Partners Albania in partnership with Project Ahead and Comitato Don Peppe Diana and in collaboration with the Agency for the Administration of the Seized and Confiscated Assets with the financial support of the European Union.

Partners Albania for Change and Development (PA) is an independent Albanian Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) established in 2001, working to support civil society and facilitate inter-sector cooperation in order to strengthen democratic institutions and advance economic development. PA builds the platforms for communities, civil society organisations, government and business to advance constructive change. It brings in expertise and over 19-year experience of a dynamic and innovative organisation specialised in empowerment of civil society actors and civic engagement, facilitation of participatory processes, and promotion of transparency and good governance at local and national level, towards advancement of democracy in Albania. PA key programmatic areas of the work include the following: (i) Enabling Environment and Sustainable Development of CSOs; (ii) Transparency and Good Governance; (iii) Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation; (iv) Development of Philanthropy, and (v) Increase Employment Opportunities for Youth. PA is a member of Partners Global, a partnership of 22 independent, local organisations in Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East working for a peaceful and democratic change. PA is also a member of several European and regional networks such as Euclid , BCSDN, ECAS, Diesis, Ana Lindh Network, etc.

Project Ahead is a cooperative established in 2001 and is based in Naples. it provides advice to national and international organisations in the conception, preparation and management of complex projects.

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION, PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Project Ahead intervenes as a qualified partner in support of the third sector, volunteering, businesses - in particular cooperatives - and public institutions, through the offer of specialised services aimed at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of development actions related mainly to European Structural Funds and Community Programs. Its activity is oriented in particular to the development of interventions connected with youth and social policies, to the international development of private partners and to international cooperation between entities.

Comitato Don Peppe Diana is an association, officially established in 2006 as a result of several years, which involved people and organisations united by the desire not to forget the martyrdom of Don Peppe Diana, a priest who died for the love of his people. It is based at Casal di Principe Municipality and strongly committed to restoring dignity and to supporting the healthy development of social capital and relations in the territories where the mafia has sown violence and generated mistrust, affecting the people's ability to build relationships based on legality and respect.

The Agency for the Administration of the Seized and Confiscated Assets (AASCA) is established in 2008 based on Law no. 9284, dated 30.09.2004 "For the prevention and fight against organised crime" changed with Law no. 10 192 dated 03.12.2009 "For the prevention and fight against organised crime and trafficking through preventive measures against assets". It is a state institution under the Ministry responsible for public order and security, responsible for the administration and/or use of seized and confiscated assets from organised crime, such as: bank accounts, vehicles, lands, buildings, machinery, equipment's as well confiscated enterprises. Its headquarters are in Tirana.

SUMMARY OF CAUSE

CAUSE - Confiscated Assets Used for Social Experimentation is the first initiative in Albania and the Western Balkan countries that created a model of sustainable re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime by civil society organisations, as a valid tool to reaffirm the value of legality and citizens' actions against organised crime.


CAUSE was designed based on the belief that the reuse of confiscated assets from organised crime presents a clear opportunity to change an economic paradigm and to show that the legal economy can be more efficient than the illegal one, putting together the public interest and the economic sustainability.

Applying an innovative approach, focused on the promotion and development of the culture of social entrepreneurship and fight against organised crime, CAUSE provided opportunities, skills and financial support to CSOs for the establishment of a social enterprise in a confiscated asset from organised crime.

CAUSE managed to transform three confiscated assets from organised crime in three different cities of Albania into environments that provide:

- Education, employment and integration opportunities for marginalised groups affected or in risk to be affected by organised crime;
- Products and services for citizens;
- Social, cultural and awareness raising activities for the community.

This publication presents the main components and achievements of CAUSE. It provides data and figures on its beneficiaries, information on the sub-granting scheme, impact, and testimonials from partners, collaborators and beneficiaries.



TWO MAIN PILLARS OF CAUSE

1

Assistance to The Agency for
the Administration of Seized
and Confiscated Assets.

2

Preparation and Management of the
Sub-Granting Scheme for the
Establishment Of Social Enterprises
by CSOs in the Confiscated Assets
from Organised Crime.

ASSISTANCE TO THE AGENCY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF SEIZED AND CONFISCATED ASSETS



Training with administrators of seized and confiscated assets on social re-use of confiscated assets



10 administrators



Provision of guidelines to support the preparation of internal procedures for the destination and the assignment of confiscated assets to CSOs for social re-use.



Study visit in Italy



2 staff members of the Agency



Establishing links of communications with CSOs.



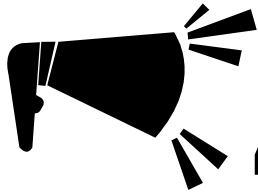


TRAINING WORKSHOPS WITH CSOs

6 TRAINING DAYS 106 PARTICIPANTS 5 CITIES: Tirana, Durrës, Shkodër, Vlorë, Fier.



SUB-GRANTING SCHEME

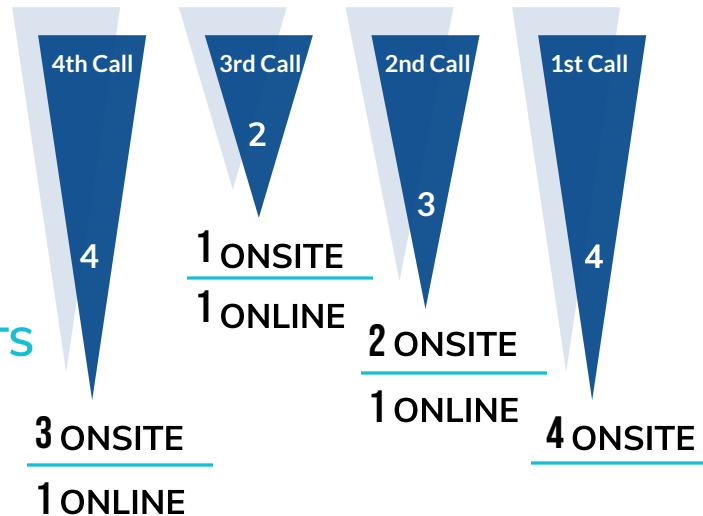


4 Calls for **Proposals**
Announced

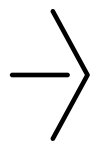
5 CONFISCATED
PROPERTIES

13 INFO
SESSIONS

146 PARTICIPANTS



300,000 EUR
TOTAL FUND



60,000 - 150,000 EUR
FUND FOR PROJECT

Applications

1st Call (9 applications)

2nd Call (6 applications)

3rd Call (2 applications)

4th Call (6 applications)

23 APPLICATIONS

3 WINNING
PROJECTS

5 IMPLEMENTING
ORGANISATIONS

12-15
MOTHS

Duration of
the **CAUSE**
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

5
YEARS

Contract with
AAPSK for the
RE-USE of the
CONFISCATED
ASSETS FOR
FREE





SIGNING of Contracts with WINNING PROJECTS



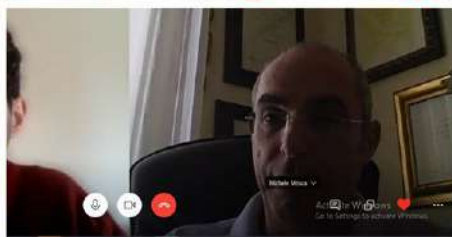
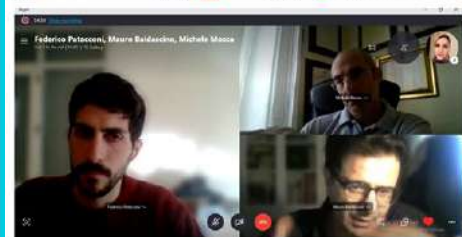
INAUGURATION of the SOCIAL ENTREPRISES





28

MENTORING
SESSIONS
delivered
online and
onsite with
sub-grantees

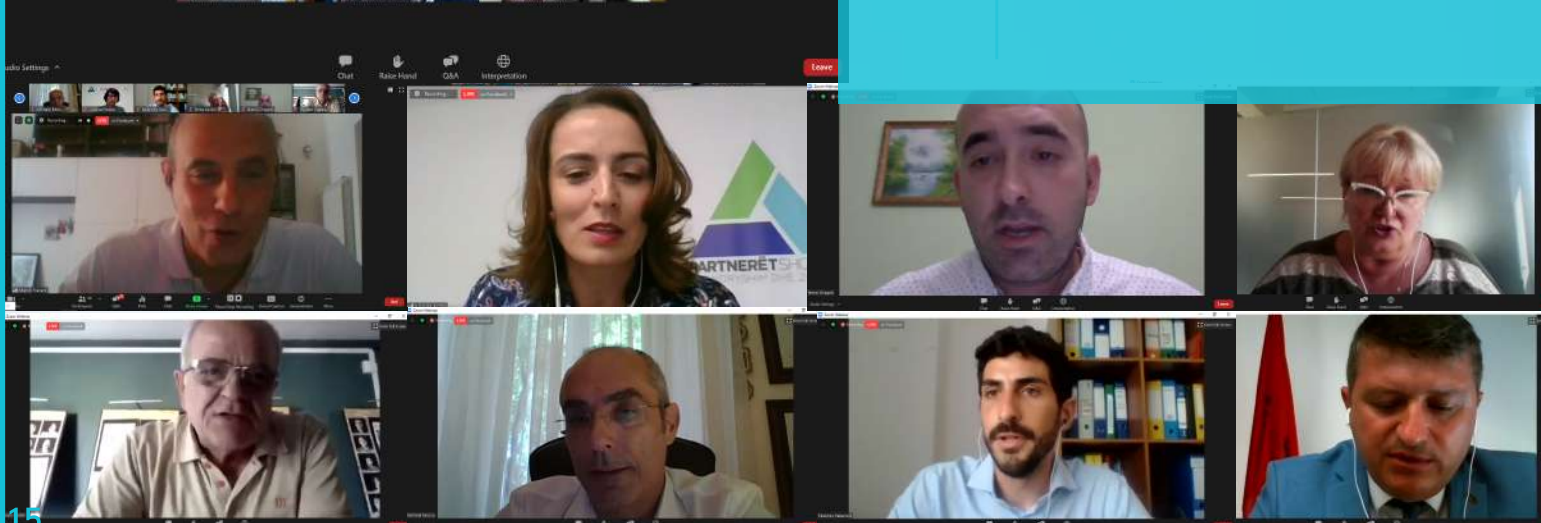
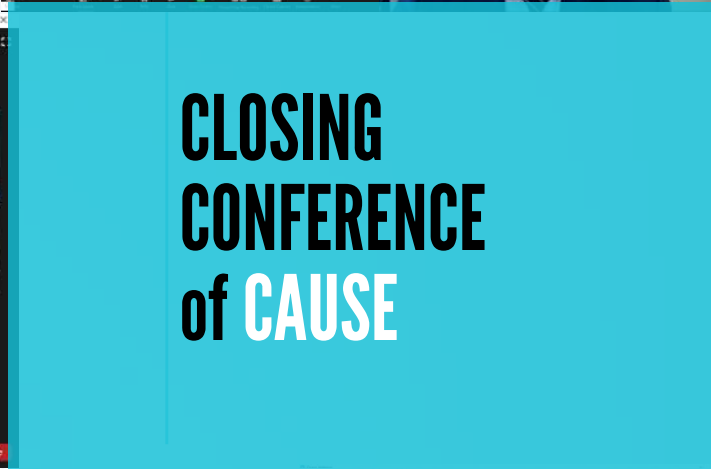




1

STUDY VISIT
in Italy with
partner
organisations
and
beneficiaries





SOCIAL ENTERPRISES established through CAUSE



KeBuono SOCIAL PASTRY

KeBuono is a social pastry running its activity in a confiscated asset in **Fier**. It offers a variety of pastry products, as well as integration activities with children and parents, adolescents, students, and women, aiming to build a culture of legality and non-violence in the community.

Vocational educational trainings are provided to young people who were former convicts or families of actual prisoners that are facing harsh socio-economic living conditions.

Combining various and different elements such as addressing social conflict due to organised crime, employment of vulnerable people and promotion of values and rights within the community, KeBuono contributes to overcome the doubts about the re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime in Fier.

75% of the personnel are **young people, girls and women** at risk or victims of organised crime in the socio-economic life of the community in Fier.

During the first year of IMPLEMENTATION

4

women and girls at risk or victims of organised crime employed;

16

youngsters qualified through vocational education training out of which 7 youngsters employed;

9

schools and centers in Fier have contributed to engage over 700 children in integration activities and 1,000 youth are informed on social issues in order to build a culture of legality and non-violence among youngsters;

4

awareness campaigns organised to promote Roma Culture, prevention of drugs and alcohol abuse, inclusion of people with special needs and awareness on gender-based violence.

Total Budget: 150,000 EUR

EUD Contribution: 142,500 EUR (95%)

Best selling products:

Croissants (970) | Ice cream (750) | Cupcakes (430) | B.day cake (60)

Implementation period: 16 January 2018 – 31 July 2019

Implementing Organisation: Enti Kombetar i Joseneve të Murialdos ENGIM
in partnership with Qendra Sociale Murialdo

KeBuono SOCIAL PASTRY



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES established through CAUSE



KinFolk COFFEE LIBRARY

KinFolk Coffee Library is a social initiative set-up in a confiscated asset from organised crime, transformed into a friendly environment for young people - especially those at risk of juvenile delinquency, their families and citizens. By engaging them in social, cultural, and educational activities, Kinfolk serves as a measure to counteract youth involvement into illegal activities. Kinfolk Coffee Library is a multifunctional center where youngsters can meet, learn from a wide range of trainings, learning courses, social and cultural activities, and spend free time. It serves as a place for employment, reintegration and enrichment of social life of youngsters, part of the probation program. The Coffee Library is open to all organisations, schools, and institutions for the organisation of their activities.

A comfortable environment in which young people can work, interact and learn established.

During the first year of IMPLEMENTATION

Total Budget: 89,717.250 EUR

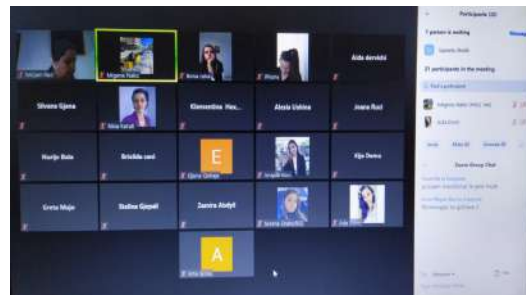
EUD Contribution: 85,231.37 EUR (95%)

Implementation period: 3 May 2019 – 31 May 2020

Implementing Organisation: Fondacioni Arsimor Shqiptar in partnership with Civil Society Development Center, Durrës

3	young people from vulnerable groups employed;	over 150	youngsters & students engaged in educational, artistic and cultural activities;	7	capacity building programs for students empowering their skills on leadership, advocacy and lobbying, social enterprises, local and central governance, readiness to work, etc;	27	courses on foreign languages and exact sciences with youngsters;
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KinFolk LIBRARY



SOCIAL ENTERPRISES established through CAUSE



Social Crafting GARAGE

Social Crafting Garage is a workshop set-up in a confiscated asset in Saranda, where women and girls - victims or at risk from organised crime and domestic violence, make handicrafts using natural stones from the beach (colourful, one colour, flat, rock, glassy, etc.). The stones are painted, drilled, carved and wired, creating various handicraft products ready for the market. The stone designs are linked to the cultural heritage and folklore genre making these products unique, valuable and competitive in the artisan market, providing long-term income generation. Giving a new face to the confiscated asset, the enterprise sends the strong message on the value that the social re-use of such assets has in supporting social inclusion and economy of the local communities.

SCG Saranda serves as a Social Hub supporting the integration of women and girls in the economic and social life of the city.

During the first year of IMPLEMENTATION

Total Budget: 59,978.86 EUR

EUD Contribution: 56,979.92 EUR (95%)

Implementation period: 3 May 2019 – 31 May 2020

Implementing Organisation: Institute of Development, Migration and Integration (IDMI)

8

women & girls victims
or at risk of organised
crime and domestic
violence trained and
employed on stone
handicraft production;

over
2,500

handicraft
products
produced
with sea
stones;

2

capacity
building
programmes
on cultural
heritage and
human
rights;

2

crafting
festival
exhibitions.

Social Crafting GARAGE



CAUSE IMPACT

CAUSE defeated the scepticism and changed the mentality and approach of state institutions toward the administration of confiscated assets. The new legal framework regulating the work of the AAPSK is influenced by its involvement and experience with CAUSE, the AAPSK is willing and prepared to institutionalise its collaboration with CSOs, and even though not specified in the law, the social reuse of confiscated assets is the priority option of the AAPSK for their administration, against the option of sale as used to be before CAUSE.

CAUSE transmitted a strong political message that what is stolen by the community can be returned to the community, through the courage and strength of civil society actors that challenged the state institutions and showed that they are a trustworthy partner in the fight against organised crime and the reintegration of its victims in their communities.

CAUSE demonstrated the social, economic and political values of the social reuse of confiscated assets by CSOs, a practice that considering the limited financial resources of CSOs, could be consolidated with the financial support of donors' community preserving and respecting its local ownership.

CAUSE is a flagship initiative in Albania and the Western Balkan Countries with the potential to be transformed into a regional program in the social reuse of confiscated assets from organised crime under the leadership of local organisations.

"We have proved that civil society has the courage to strongly engage in the fight against organised crime."

Juliana Hoxha
Director of Partners Albania

TESTIMONIALS

"We strongly believe in the social re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime.

The real value behind the CAUSE project is the public perception that organised crime can be fought and won; and what is stolen by the organised crime goes back to the society. I think this is the concept of the project."

H.E. Mr. Luigi Soreca
Ambassador of the Delegation of the EU to Albania

"Before the CAUSE project, assets sale has been an option until these social projects initiated. CAUSE has drastically changed the Agency's priorities."

Artur Kala
Head Administrator
AASCA

"Thanks to the courage of these organisations that have a social dimension and even a limited budget, we can build an alternative economy that can develop an antidote to criminal organisations."

Michele Mosca
Comitato Don Pepe Diana and Naples University "Federico II"

"The best way to promote this activity is to give to people success stories. Once there is someone who succeeded doing, we can always say: look at him, he did it! And so, you can do it too!"

Marco Traversi
Project Ahead

TESTIMONIALS

"In November 2017 we participated in a training session for the re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime. We visited the asset on the same day. It was a totally dark and abandoned place. We reflected on it because it was a heavy and risky task. But, we decided to keep on going."

Roberto d'Amato
Project Coordinator
ENGIM Internazionale

"We faced the first barriers from the staff related with the fact that we had to deal with a confiscated asset. Everybody was saying that we won't implement this project. Others even questioned the need for being involved with such an asset. But someone has to start doing it. So we prepared and submitted the proposal."

Nensi Dragoti
FASh

TESTIMONIALS

"I have to work to attend my studies and finance them. The project seemed quite good, serving citizens and students and offering vocational education trainings and courses that I could attend. I would be eager to continue my engagement in this great project as it has helped me greatly so far."

Enio Blea
Waiter at Kinfolk Coffee Library

"All women and girls have very good relations at the work place. We are given a chance and a very good opportunity to keep us moving forward, boost our creativity and invest in ourselves."

Aleksandra Mazaj
Artisan at Social Crafting Garage

"A year ago I started working as a pastry helper at KeBuono! pastry. This perfectly organised and friendly environment has made me experience a remarkable year, full of surprises and achievements. We went through vocational education for four months, thanks to which I learned many new techniques. I am truly happy!"

Besnike Kume
Pastry Chef at KeBuono! Social Pastry

"This social enterprise will bring them hope and strength to stop violence."

Drita Avdyli
Institute for Mediation, Integration and Development

ANNEX 1

CAUSE in Media

TV&Radio Appearance

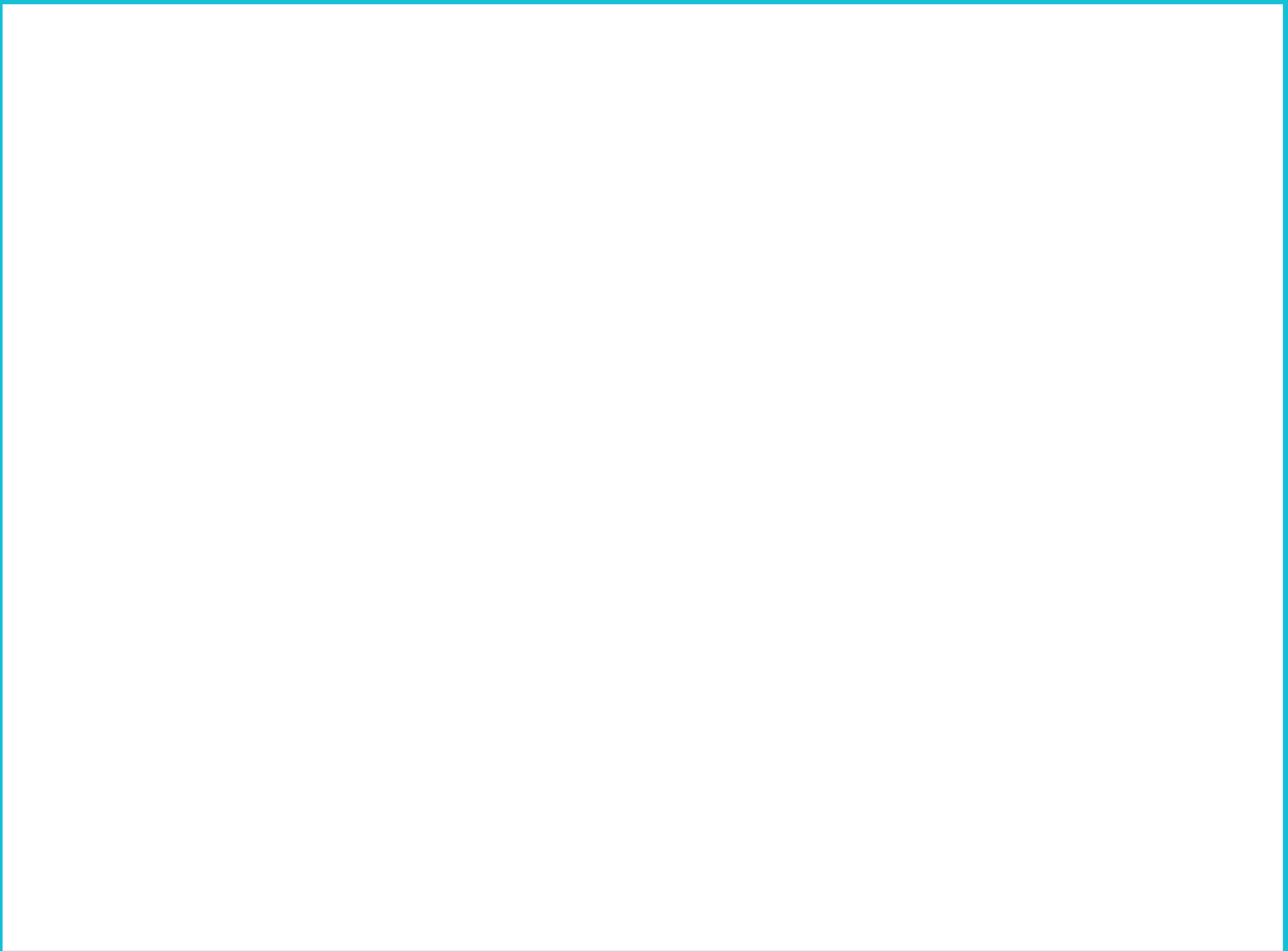
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