

The Effect of Organized Crime on Firm Technical Efficiency and R&D Investments

PRIN2022 PNRR

Final Conference

February 26, 2026

University of Messina,
Department of Economics
Aula Magna 2



11:00 | Institutional greetings

Prof. Gustavo Barresi, Director, Department of Economics,
University of Messina

Dr. Salvatore La Rosa, Questore (Provincial Police Chief) of
Messina

Col. Lucio Arcidiacono, Provincial Commander of the
Carabinieri of Messina

Col. Gerolamo Franchetti, Provincial Commander of the
Guardia di Finanza of Messina

Lt. Col. Vincenzo Letizia, Section Head of the Anti-Mafia
Investigative Directorate (DIA) of Messina

Prof. Antonio Del Pozzo (Chair), University of Messina

11:30 | Session 1*

**The Hidden Costs of Organized Crime: Quantifying Impacts
on Firms, Credit, and Innovation.** Chair: Prof. Carlo
Migliardo

Carlo Migliardo – University of Messina

*The Mafia's Economic Grip: Firm Efficiency and a Composite
Indicator of Organized Crime (with A. F. Forgione)*

Antonio F. Forgione – University of Messina

*Crime and Credit: Analyzing the Impact of Organized Crime
Perceptions on Loan Restrictions (with C. Migliardo and M.
Spadaro)*

Marco Spadaro – University of Messina

*The Silent Stranglehold: Quantifying Organized Crime's Chilling
Effect on Firm Efficiency and R&D (with A. F. Forgione and C.
Migliardo)*

Salvatore Loprevite – University for Foreigners "Dante
Alighieri" of Reggio Calabria

*Response or Adaptation? The Control Paradox of Italian SMEs
in Organized Crime Contexts (with R. Mavilia and M. Spadaro)*

Domenico Nicolò – Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria
*Organized Crime and Resilience in Family Firms: Insights from
a Natural Experiment in Judicial Administration (with A. F.
Forgione and C. Migliardo)*

13:30 | Light lunch

*Q&A will follow each presentation

Contacts:

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Project website: <https://ocindex.unime.it/en/home-english/>

Online participation (MS Teams): Link available on the project website

14:30 | Session 2*

**The Economics of Organized Crime: Market Frictions,
Detection, and Institutional Responses.** Chair: Prof. Salvatore
Loprevite

Monica Milasi – University of Messina

*Organized Crime and Market Distortions: A General
Equilibrium Analysis with Quasi-Variational Inequalities (with
A. F. Forgione and C. Migliardo)*

Paolo Mustica – University of Messina

*Unmasking the Mafia: Decoding Italy's Criminal Networks
Using a Dual Toolbox of Text Mining and Data-Driven Crime
Indices (with A. F. Forgione and C. Migliardo)*

Giulia Cattafi – University of Catanzaro

*Information Asymmetries and Certification: Evidence from the
Italian Legality Rating Program (with A. Del Pozzo, A. F.
Forgione and C. Migliardo)*

15:30 | Coffee break

16:00 | Session 3*

**Defending Institutions: Tackling Organized Crime through
Public Administration and Law Enforcement.** Chair: Prof.
Antonio Fabio Forgione

Vincenza Caracciolo La Grotteria – Mediterranea University
of Reggio Calabria

*The Impact of Organised Crime on Public Administration
Activities*

Ettore Squillaci – Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria

Prevention and Punishment in the Fight against Illegal Economy

16:40 | Roundtable

**From Theory to Action: Civil Society and Economic Actors in
the Fight for Legality**

Moderator: Prof. **Antonio Del Pozzo**, University of Messina

Panelists: Prof. **F. De Domenico** (University of Messina), Dr. **I.
Lembo** (Anti-usury Foundation Father Pino Puglisi), Dr. **A.
Liparoti** (Libera Association Messina), Dr. **G. Lupò**
(Confindustria Messina), Dr. **D. Mangiapane** (ANCE Messina)