

5. INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION AT SERVICE OF YOUTH

The Organization: International Catholic Association at the Service of Youth

The International Catholic Association at the Service of Youth (ACISJF) is a cornerstone of social protection in Italy. As a national federation, they provide a vital safety net for young women and minors in distress. Their massive reach includes:

- Shelter and Housing: Operating [15 shelters and residential communities](#) across Italy, providing approximately 600 beds.
- Essential Services: Serving over 20,000 free meals annually and assisting more than 15,000 vulnerable individuals through soup kitchens and counseling centers.
- Frontline Presence: Maintaining station-based offices to assist at-risk youth arriving in major cities.

The Challenge: Managing a Legacy for the Future

In late 2021, ACISJF faced a complex organizational hurdle. The federation had received significant property assets as a legacy, but their existing legal structure was not apt to manage these assets under the new Italian Third Sector Code. To ensure these properties could be used to sustainably fund and house their youth programs, they needed a sophisticated reorganization that balanced nonprofit compliance with inheritance law.

PBI and our Member Law Firm's Pro Bono Support

The legal work performed by a law firm affiliated with PBI, involved:

- Structural Analysis: Evaluating the association's existing bylaws alongside expert accounting reports to identify legal bottlenecks.
- Strategic Reorganization: Providing a 16-hour in-depth consultation on the most effective ways to reorganize the federation's entities to manage legacy properties.
- Compliance Roadmap: Outlining the most appropriate legal pathways to ensure the organization remained fully compliant with national legislation while optimizing its resources.

The Impact: Empowered to Sustain a Mission

This intervention by PBI and the Member Law Firm not only resolved the immediate liability concerns but also equipped CSV Trentino with proactive governance tools to prevent future uncertainties. Armed with clear interpretations of Legislative Decree 39/2010, the center could confidently refine its support models for the associations it serves, ensuring auditors and volunteers operate under transparent, legally sound frameworks that prioritize risk mitigation without stifling community action.

The ripple effect extends far beyond this single query: by fortifying the center's advisory capacity, PBI helped sustain Trentino's vibrant volunteering ecosystem—over 5,000 dedicated individuals driving inclusion, cultural events, and social cohesion across the province. This case exemplifies PBI's role as a leader, and force multiplier, transforming

complex regulatory hurdles into opportunities for enduring organizational strength and heightened volunteer trust.

Through PBI's coordination, the expert guidance provided by the Law Firm, gave ACISJF the legal certainty required to protect its new assets. By modernizing their legal structure, the federation ensured that their legacy properties would serve as a permanent foundation for their mission. This intervention secures the long-term future of their shelters and soup kitchens, ensuring ACISJF can continue to provide a safe haven for thousands of young people in need.