



Gobierno
de La Rioja



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BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Operaciones Cofinanciadas

Project for the extension of the path of “Vía Romana” (Roman road) in the municipalities of Viguera, Nalda, Albelda, Alberite and Villamediana de Iregua.

Directorate General for Natural Environment

Programa Operativo de La Rioja

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Año 2017



GOBIERNO
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO
DE HACIENDA
Y FUNCIÓN PÚBLICA

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE
PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL
DE FONDOS EUROPEOS

BEST PRACTICES

Title of the best practice: Project for the extension of the path of “Vía Romana” (Roman road) in the municipalities of Viguera, Nalda, Albelda, Alberite and Villamediana de Iregua.

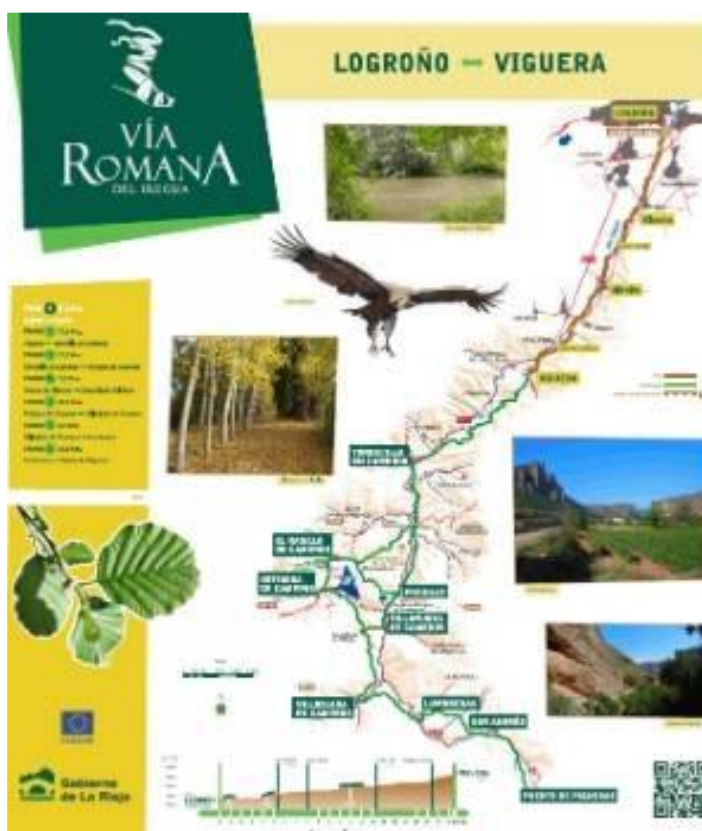
Description:

In 1999 Directorate General for Natural Environment carried out the path named “Vía Romanadellregua” (Roman road of the Iregua) that walkably connected the Port of Piqueras to Viguera. This path has meant an important resource to boost the knowledge of the natural and cultural values in Valle del Iregua (Iregua Valley) and thereby a way to promote the tourism of the municipalities it crosses.

Under the objective of continuing this path from Viguera, across the BajoIregua (Low Iregua) to Logroño, it was promoted a new greenway associated to the river Iregua across the municipal areas of Villamediana de Iregua, Alberite, Albelda and Nalda.

Therefore, this performance has consisted in the execution of the works for the connection of the path of Via Romana across these municipalities, adapting the whole infrastructure to the public use in order to fulfill all the requirements of the law 5/2003 of 26 March regulating the Network of Greenways of La Rioja along 19.053 meters. This new layout is associated to the river Iregua for the purpose of exploiting the leisure potential of this body of water and its natural surroundings in his low and medium course, made up of riverside forests characterized by the presence of various species as alders, poplars, willows, ashes, elms, etc. and the fauna associated to these ecosystems.

The implemented actions have focused on the facilities of the path to facilitate el ludic use of the infrastructure. Moreover, it has been undertaken the installation of the different boards, panels and panoramic stands that inform and disseminate the natural and ethnographic values of various individual points along the “Vía Romana” and the placing of direction signs to help the users follow the route.



The eligible cost of the action is 352.982,24 euro. FEDER contribution amounts to 176.491,17 euro. 19 km of “Vía Romanadellregua” has been conditioned in the municipalities of Viguera, Nalda, Albelda, Alberite and Villamediana de Iregua.

It is considered a **good practice** because it meets the relevant criteria to do so:

1. - The action has been properly spread among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and general public.

The extension of the path “Vía Romanadellregua” has been widely disseminated through various communication actions with the aim of inform the end users, who are the main beneficiaries of these kind of interventions:

Press release of the regional Government published during the execution of the works that informed about the beginning of the project, [including a reference of FEDER co-financing](#).

El Gobierno de La Rioja licita las obras de acondicionamiento de la Vía Romana del Iregua entre Villamediana y Viguera por 493.671 euros

16 de abril de 2014

El Consejo de Gobierno ha informado hoy de la apertura de la convocatoria para la contratación de las obras de acondicionamiento del tramo de la Vía Romana entre Villamediana y Viguera, pasando por Alberite, Albelda y Nalda, por un importe de 493.671 euros. Este nuevo trazado permitirá unir todo el valle del Iregua en un paseo de 19 kilómetros que aúna valores históricos, culturales y medioambientales.

El Boletín Oficial de La Rioja publica las condiciones de la licitación del proyecto que se adjudicará a través de la Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería y Medio Ambiente **que estará financiado al cincuenta por ciento en el marco del actual programa operativo del Fondo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER)**. Las empresas interesadas podrán presentar sus ofertas, junto con la documentación requerida, hasta el próximo 12 de mayo en el Registro General del Gobierno de La Rioja.

Esta obra, que cuenta con un plazo de ejecución de ocho meses, permitirá además unir los dos tramos existentes de este sendero a su paso por La Rioja, entre Logroño y Villamediana y Viguera y el puerto de Piqueras (Lumbreras), para conformar un recorrido ininterumpido de 77,2 kilómetros a lo largo del valle del Iregua.

La unión de estos dos tramos completará el trabajo iniciado por la Dirección General de Medio Natural hace más de una década con el acondicionamiento del trazado de la denominada Vía Romana del Iregua, camino que, según algunos estudios, utilizaron los romanos para comunicar el puerto fluvial de Vareia (Vareia) y la histórica Numanca, siguiendo el curso del río Iregua. Entonces se adaptó un camino de más de 56 kilómetros entre Viguera y el puerto de Piqueras, en pleno corazón de los Cameros.

En 2005 se comenzó a trabajar en la recuperación de un segundo tramo desde Logroño, en Puente Madre, junto a la desembocadura del Iregua en el Ebro, hasta Villamediana. Este nuevo trazado se inauguró en 2012 gracias a una inversión de 104.928 euros.

Camino histórico y ambiental

En sus primeros tramos el recorrido discurrirá por la margen izquierda del Iregua, para conectar con la vía construida que finaliza aguas arriba del puente de la autopista. Hasta el puente de Alberite, la ruta irá por caminos o sendas preexistentes, que alternan espacios abiertos, plantaciones de chopera y zonas de vegetación riparia espesa. También hay numerosos puntos en los que es posible acceder al

← **MENCION A LA COFINANCIACIÓN FEDER: "...que estará financiado al cincuenta por ciento en el marco del actual programa operativo del Fondo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER)"**

Press release of the tender of the project

Press releases of the regional Government and press news published in different media during the execution of the works announcing its end

Medio Natural concluye la ampliación de la Vía Romana del Iregua que conecta ya de forma ininterumpida Logroño y el Puerto de Piqueras

Terminado el nuevo tramo de 19 kilómetros entre Viguera y el Parque del Iregua, caminantes y ciclistas podrán disfrutar de 77,2 kilómetros de sendero

La Dirección General de Medio Natural del Gobierno de La Rioja ha concluido las obras de ampliación del sendero de la Vía Romana del Iregua, que desde esta primavera ofrecerá a caminantes y ciclistas un recorrido de 77,2 kilómetros ininterumpidos por todo el valle del Iregua, desde Logroño hasta el Puerto de Piqueras, facilitando a la gente la posibilidad de disfrutar de sus paisajes, su cultura y su historia.

El nuevo tramo que ahora se inaugura, entre Logroño y Viguera, pone el broche de oro a un proyecto que comenzó hace más de una década, cuando se adecuó parte del trazado de la denominada Vía Romana del Iregua, camino que según algunos estudios utilizaron los romanos para comunicar el puerto fluvial de Vareia (Vareia) y la histórica Numanca, acompañando precisamente el curso del río Iregua, unas veces cercana al cauce y otras a media ladera. En un primer momento se acondicionaron y señalaron más de 56 kilómetros, que discurren entre Viguera y el Puerto de Piqueras, creando un sendero peatonal por el corazón de los Cameros que aúna historia, patrimonio arqueológico, cultural y espacios naturales.

Quedó entonces la recuperación del antiguo camino que sigue al Iregua en su curso más bajo hasta su fusión con el Ebro, al estar el trazado originario totalmente ocupado por carreteras, caminos agrícolas, huertas, viviendas y edificaciones de todo tipo. Sin embargo, es precisamente en la capital y en estos pueblos de los alrededores de Logroño donde más gente demanda la recuperación de ese contacto con los entornos fluviales, por lo que Medio Natural retomó el proyecto en 2011. Primero se acondicionó el tramo más bajo, de 2,2 kilómetros y 3 metros de anchura que parte de Puente Madre, y en el que se invirtieron 104.928 euros. Ahora se completa el proyecto con un nuevo tramo de 19 kilómetros, entre Villamediana y Viguera, para cuyo diseño se contó con la colaboración de todos los ayuntamientos implicados, y que ha supuesto una inversión de total de 446.000 euros. **De ellos, 353.000 euros se corresponden a la ejecución de proyecto propiamente dicho y están cofinanciados al 50% por FEDER. Otros 93.000 euros han sido para la expropiación de los terrenos necesarios para acometer el proyecto.**

Trazado de nueva creación

Buena parte del recorrido en este nuevo tramo entre Villamediana y Viguera discurre por caminos de nueva creación, más próximos al río y los entornos ribereños para que la gente pueda disfrutar de sus valores. Otro de los aspectos claves a la hora de diseñar el trazado ha sido el tratar de evitar los caminos y carreteras con abundante tráfico y los cruces peligrosos con los mismos.

← **MENCION A LA COFINANCIACION FEDER. De ellos, 353.000 euros se corresponden a la ejecución de proyecto propiamente dicho y están cofinanciados al 50% por FEDER.**

Press release on the end of the works

Launch event of the President of the Government of La Rioja for the inauguration of the path “ViaRomanadellregua” after the end of the extension works of the 19 km stretch between Villamediana de Iregua and Viguera in March 2016, registering a wide media coverage.

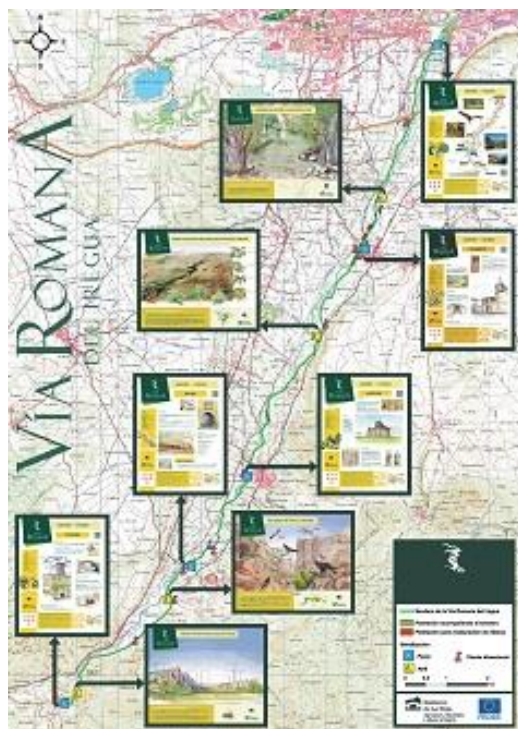


It was underlined that it is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in the statements made by the regional President to the media.

(http://docs.larioja.org/audiovisuales/CMU_PRE/videodifu/N010080/3/450767.mp4)



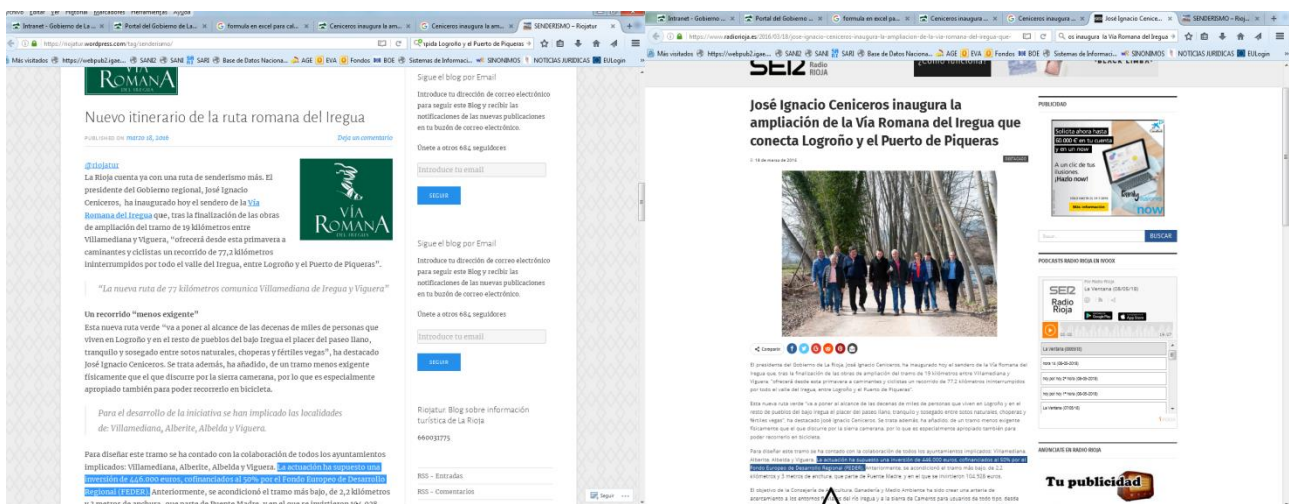
Also on the informative poster created to disseminate and explain the project to the media and high-level officials attending the event. This cartel is:



The launch event was spread through press releases and news in media.



Nota de prensa de la inauguración de las obras



Mención de la cofinanciación FEDER

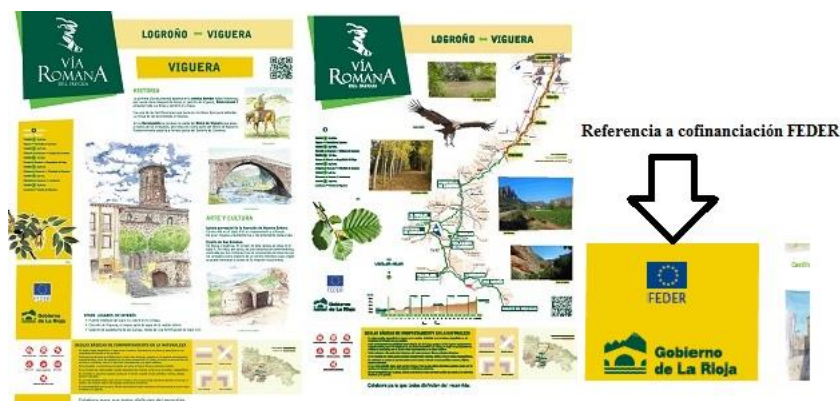
News in media about the beginning of the works

Along the path of “ViaRomana” various information boards have been installed; they contain the European Union symbols that indicate there has been EFRD co-financing.

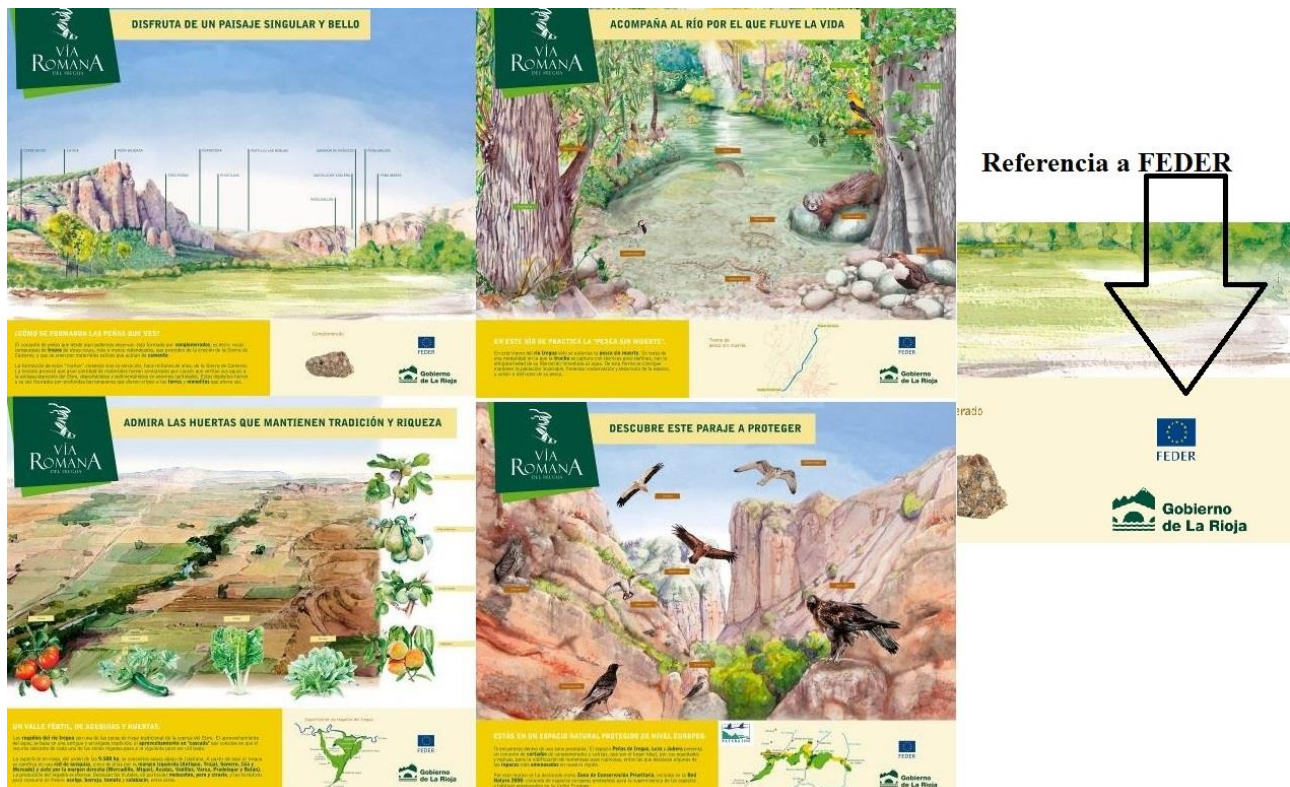


There are two kinds of information boards.

The first one covers themes related to the culture, history and art of the area as well as other sites of interest to be visited by the walker of “VíaRomana”.



The second type of board covers the landscape of the area, highlighting the natural values to enjoy and the fauna and vegetation present in this stretch of the “VíaRomana”



In the 2017 Environmental Report of the regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment, it is described the state of the paths in La Rioja, including a reference to “VíaRomanadellregua”.

Similarly, it is also included in the editorial body of the regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment of the Government of La Rioja “Páginas de Información Ambiental” (Pages of Environmental Information) (nº47 of July 2016). In its written and digital version, it contains an article (“*Iregua from beginning to end. The new stretch between Villamediana and Viguera completes the path “VíaRomanadellregua”*”) that includes comprehensive information about “VíaRomana” and the new stretch and specifies that “the implementation of the project has received financial support of the European Union through ERDF that has financed the 50% of the works”. Its url address is: <http://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/medio-ambiente/images?idMmedia=847887>



The article mentions the ERDF co-financing

da la recuperación del contacto con los entornos fluviales.

Por eso en estos años se ha seguido trabajando para encontrar la



romana. Primero se acondicionó el tramo más bajo, de 2,2 kilómetros y 3 metros de anchura, que parte de Puente Madre, y en el que se invirtieron 104.928 euros. Y por fin, esta primavera, se ha puesto el broche definitivo al proyecto con la inauguración de un nuevo tramo de 4,4 kilómetros entre Villamediana y Viguera, pasando entre

medio por los términos municipales de Alberite, Nalda y Albelda. Este nuevo tramo ha supuesto una inversión de 446.000 euros. La ejecución del proyecto propiamente dicha, cuyo coste han sido 353.000 euros, ha contado con el apoyo económico de la Unión Europea a través del FEDER, que ha financiado el 50% de las obras. El resto,

sufragar la expropiación de los terrenos necesarios para acometer el trazado de la Vía.

Trazado de nueva creación
De hecho, y vista la imposibilidad

se ha contado en todo momento con la colaboración de los ayuntamientos implicados. Finalmente, buena parte del recorrido entre Villamediana y Viguera discurre por caminos de nueva creación, más próximos al río y los entornos ribereños para que la gente pueda disfrutar de sus valores. Otro de los aspectos claves a la hora de



Referencia a la cofinanciación FEDER

Dissemination has been strengthened with the publishing of informative leaflets about “VíaRomanadellregua” and its new section fitted thanks to ERDF, which can be digitally downloaded in the following url addresses:

http://ias1.larioja.org/apps/catapu/documentos/folleto_generico.pdf

<http://www.larioja.org/larioja-client/cm/medio-ambiente/images?idMmedia=778868>



Informative leaflets about “ViaRomanadelIregua”

Information about the action on the beneficiary website:



2. - The action incorporates innovative elements.

Directorate General of Natural Environment is in charge of promoting and managing the paths crossing Protected Natural Areas with the double aim purpose of facilitating the orderly public use of these spaces and the highest-level protection of their natural assets.

During the design of the net of paths, it has always been present the idea that these ways represent a leading environmental awareness element.

In fact, the regional Ministry has produced a Guide of Corporate Identity for the signaling, fittings and other elements that are placed in the natural environment of La Rioja aimed at homogenizing the image of all the spaces, paths and public use facilities that are managed by the Government of La Rioja. The labors of signaling consist of, among others, the posting of signs in some natural elements of the terrain, as stones or trees, and the setting of different types of marks and informative panels.



Thanks to this action it is been able to connect the population of big urban areas with the mountains throughout a natural corridor of high natural and touristic interest. Then it is possible to answer the growing need for an active tourism that preserves the environment and boosts the knowledge of our cultural, heritage and other type of assets, from its start in Puente Madre (Villamediana de Iregua) to Puerto de Piqueras (Lumbreras). This infrastructure is mainly targeted to the public use for the purposes of promoting an accessible leisure in the nature, safe sport, culture and protection of environment.

3. - Matching of the results with the stablished objectives

The action of extension of the path “VíaRomanadellregua” in the municipalities of Viguera, Nalda, Albelda, Alberite and Villamediana de Iregua has achieved the objectives of continuous improvement of the ludic infrastructure and its keeping in good condition of use. Thus, thanks to this extension the population of the Valley is connected to the mountain range throughout a continuous greenway, addressing the needs for recreation, contact with nature and leisure of today’s society.

Besides the enjoyment of the fresh air, the action presents panels or leaflets to interpret different points of singular interest for their natural or ethnographic characteristics.



4.- Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness in the territorial scope of intervention

The action contributes especially to the ludic public use and recreation of the population of the municipalities crossed by the path. It is also largely use by the weekend user of greenways.

The large use of “VíaRomana” is due to:

- Good conditions of trafficability thanks to the good state of the surface and the gentle slope of the layout that make the path attractive for any stratum of the population, especially for people with major handicaps.
- Its good communication from the urban centers makes the path accessible for its daily use for walking and sports practice.

- The lack of many sections shared with motorized vehicles increases the security for cycling, running or daily walking.
- The large number of shaded areas encourage its use during the summer.



- The high quality of the landscape, thanks to the river Iregua that flows all along the path and to the geological formations of great interest.
- The existence of public lighting on the path near urban areas, extending considerably its period of use for sports practice.

This infrastructure contributes specially to a touristic and recreational use of the low-medium Iregua county. The path gives more dynamism to the area and reduces the risks since it avoids the use of more dangerous infrastructures, as highways, for the practice of activities such as walking or cycling.

Its existence and increasing use encourage keeping on with associated investments on the “Vía Romana” to improve their connectivity with other infrastructures, its touristic offer and other uses. For instance, it can be mentioned the municipality of Villamediana de Iregua, where the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the river to connect the municipality with “Vía Romana” is imminent. In this way, the population of this urban nucleus will enjoy a pedestrian connection with “Vía Romana” that runs along the opposite bank of the river, as at present there is no link between them.

Therefore, we can say that “Vía Romana” it has proved itself as a recreational and entertainment axis of the county. It is a prime example of synergies with other initiatives of public use.

5.- High level of coverage of the targeted population

As it has been explained, there is a largely observed use among the population from the municipalities that “Via Romana” goes through and occasional users.

The new stretch of 19 kilometers between Villamediana and Viguera completes the path of “Vía Romana de Iregua” and allows the citizens of Logroño and surroundings to enjoy an agreeable walk along a river landscape, discovering plenty of values of this environment to the population.

This enables thousands of people living in Logroño and villages of the low Iregua to enjoy the pleasure of a quiet, peaceful and flat walk along poplars, groves and fertile meadows. It is also a section less physically challenging than other stretches of this path that crosses “Sierra de Cameros” (Cameros mountains range), being also specially suitable for cycling.

By completing this big path, the Government of La Rioja wanted to create an artery for approaching the Iregua’s river environment and “Sierra de Cameros” to all kind of users; from the most trained hikers or bikers that look for long stages, to people of any age or physical condition that look for a peaceful walk to discover any of these villages. In addition, public transportation connects these villages to the capital city Logroño, contributing to the project’s success.

6.- Consideration of the cross-cutting criteria of equal opportunities and no discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

The environmental sustainability criteria is included in each intervention of the Project. “VíaRomanadelIregua” is located in the Nature 2000 network and in the **SCI (Site of Community Importance) SAC (Special Area for Conservation)** “Peñas del Iregua, Leza y Jubera”; in consequence, all the



proceeding are subjected to an environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43. This assessment has been positive for all the interventions made.

The environmental sustainability has been consolidated with the declaration of “Via Romana del Iregua” as a greenway by the Decree 37/2017 of the 21st July, based on the Law 5/2003, of the 26th of March, regulating the network of greenways of La Rioja. In this way, it becomes a public good whose management is under the responsibility of the Autonomous Region of La Rioja, committing with its conservation, monitoring and protection.

7.- Synergies with other politics or instruments of public intervention

The interventions of the “VíaRomana” are co-financed with ERDF funds, so there are synergies with other actuaciones that develop infrastructures of recreational public use and are promoted by other institutions and



financed with other funds, in particular with EAFRD fund.

The paths for public use need of a continued maintenance in order to guarantee the good conditions of the infrastructure all along its course. This implies the contracting of projects including paring and pruning, maintenance works, restoration of street furniture as benches and tables, maintenance or replacement of direction signs and informative panels. All these works are usually included in one or more works projects financed by EAFRD within the sub-measure 7.5 of aid for investments for public use of recreational infrastructures, touristic information and touristic infrastructures of small scale. Under this sub-measure investments for the construction, improvement and maintenance of infrastructures of recreational and touristic use of small scale are considered eligible; greenways are considered as this kind of infrastructures,



Moreover, the path of “VíaRomanadelIregua” connects the municipalities of the valley with the mountain range up to Villoslada de Cameros and Lumbreras, both municipalities that belong to the Natural Park of “Sierra Cebollera”. In the municipality of Villoslada de Cameros is placed the Interpretation Center of the Natural Park where environment educational activities take place for the schools of La Rioja participating in the Program of Educational Centers towards Sustainability. The conducted activities are environmental educational pathways in the Natural Park intended to children of Primary, Secondary, High School and Upper-Lever training cycles. The objective is that the student knows, in a practical and fun way, the Natural Park from an environmental, touristic and historic approach.

Furthermore, the Interpretation Center houses all kind of diffusion activities of the Natural Park.

Last but not least, the Directorate-General for the Environment has carried out a policy for the promotion of reforestation in the rural area in order to recover the lineal or grouping woodland along paths and other areas that allow to enrich the landscape and increase the ecological richness of the rural environment; for the last 10 years, this policy has undertaken plantations of typical vegetation of the zone in parcels of Public Hydraulic Domain nearby areas of “Vía Roma del Iregua”. Plantations have been made in the municipal limits of Villamediana de Iregua, Albelda de Iregua andAlberite, in an approximately total surface of 29,5ha, with endemic species such as poplars, aspens, willows, ash trees, walnut trees, cherry trees, alders and elms. This kind of plantations have also the defense and protection function against the possible intrusions into these parcels, guaranteeing an ecological corridor all along the Iregua’s river and in parallel with “VíaRomana del Iregua”