





## Una manera de Bacer Europa



Construction and start up of the "Ágora" Elementary and Primary Education Centre (EPEC)- Burguillos, Seville.

Junta de Andalucía

# Programa Operativo de Andalucía

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

## CONSTRUCTION AND START-UP OF THE "ÁGORA" ELEMENTARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION CENTRE

#### Burguillos, Seville.

The construction of the "Ágora" Elementary and Primary Education Centre (EPEC) in the Sevillian town of Burguillos has a capacity meant for 675 students in C3 typology (three units per each educational level). On a plot of land of 12,000 square meters, the building has 4,000 square meters that have been distributed in 9 Elementary classrooms with direct access to the toilets area and common spaces, 18 versatile classrooms and 6 more designed for small groups. It also has a multipurpose room, computer rooms, a music room, a Special Education classroom and toilets for the students.

The administration area has offices for management bodies, a senior staff room and a secretary's office, teacher's room with toilets, caretaker's office and a copy centre, as well as rooms for parents' and students' associations. Additionally, the centre also has a dining room with kitchen, a gym with changing rooms, a library, an assembly hall, a general store and cleaning rubbish and maintenance rooms. On the outside, a covered porch has been built, as well as a play area, two sports courts, a parking and school garden.

This action has a cost of 3,881,583 euros, 75% co-funded by the ERDF, which represents a total of 2,911,187.25 euros. With this action, a centre with capacity for 675 students and of C3 typology (three units per each educational level) has been built. Thus, it has led to the reduction of the average number of students per unit in primary education, compulsory secondary education and vocational training cycles in public centres, until the figure of 22, compared to 23.1 students/teaching unit registered in 2012.

#### It is considered a Project's Good Practice since it meets the following criteria:

1. The ERDF's role has been suitably disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries, and the general public:

The Directorate-General of European Funds publishes and distributes a quarterly digital publication: the "Huella" magazine. In its 4<sup>th</sup> issue of 2018, as a relevant project in the ERDF section, a wide report on this project of construction and start-up of the "Agora" EPEC of Burguillos has been offered, emphasising the ERDF contribution to its construction. This magazine is distributed to 10,000 subscribers and includes photographs, video reports and a description of the project. The link to access the aforementioned site is:

http://www.andaluciasemueveconeuropa.com/revistahuelladigital/post-type-4.php?idC=3&idN=179&idR=58



This report has also been disseminated through the social networks of the DG of European Funds such as Facebook, Twitter and Youtube:



 $\underline{\text{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BePeA0N8}}\underline{\text{E\&list=PLjFwCQ07s}}\underline{\text{WYbc2GBTnL7y1MjG0UMfxkD\&ind}}\underline{\text{ex=21}}$ 

On the other hand, there has been a special broadcast on "Onda Cero" radio station on 22 May, 2018 in the show "Andalucía capital", where the director of the Agora School in Burguillos was interviewed to explain the importance of the ERDF in its construction:

http://www.fondoseuropeosandalucia.es/radio/burguillos.MP3

The action certainly meets the mandatory elements of dissemination such as the works sign and the informative plate:



Finally, in the European Funds in Andalusia's web, in the "Photographic Library" subsection, this project is highlighted through a photographic report and a brief description of the centre. The link is:

http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/economiainnovacionyciencia/fondoseuropeosenandalucia/banco2014.php

#### 2. The action incorporates innovative elements:

Regarding the building construction, it has been designed in such a way that solar light is optimised, allowing significant energy saving by using zenith skylights in the building entrance atrium. The different

corridors and distribution areas of the blocks, which are dedicated to the different educational levels, also have optimisation systems by the use of natural light.

Other innovative elements include the Ágora EPEC bilingual education incorporated into its pedagogical curriculum at all levels. Also, the landscaped areas of the centre include an ecological garden, which allows environmental education and awareness of the youngest by the use of non-aggressive techniques with the environment and the promotion of healthy eating from the first years of schooling.





#### 3. Adaptation of the obtained results to the established objectives:

From 2007, the Burguillos population experienced a significant growth being an important percentage of families with school-age children or couples with a family life project including children. Consequently, the need to offer school places at Elementary and Primary Education levels was becoming more and more necessary over the years. Assigning children to another local EPEC was becoming increasingly difficult for having to install temporary facilities. Thus, the start-up of the "Agora" EPEC meets the marked objective, offering a means to achieve quality education and adequate facilities to cover the demand for school places in the town.

#### 4. Resolution contribution of a regional problem or weakness:

The demographic increase experienced by the town of Burguillos in the last decade led to a reality in which the already existing educational facilities were obviously insufficient. The existing facilities were initially adapted on a provisional basis, but the permanent increase in the demand for places was not suitably satisfied until the "Agora" EPEC was inaugurated.

#### 5. High target population coverage:

The present offer of school places in the town of Burguillos, joining the 675 places of Elementary and Primary educational levels to the ones previously offered, covers the needs of education in the town of Burguillos and its surroundings.

### 6. The horizontal criteria for equal opportunities and non-discrimination, environmental sustainability and/or social responsibility have been taken into account:

With the aim of making the schooling population aware of the benefits of organic products, there is the possibility of educating in environmental values. There is also the opportunity of considering ecological agriculture as a future project and a way of betting on the development of the area, by offering a wide and innovative educational resource such as the ecological school garden. The ecological school garden helps children in the community to experiment with nature, allows them to grow it and to acquire values and responsibilities. All this results in the environmental sustainability criterion.



The centre has adapted access and toilets to facilitate the integration of students with disabilities, which ensures the compliance with the criterion for non-discrimination and equal opportunities.

The existence of a dining room service inside the centre adds important value for the reconciliation of family and work life. This means a great advance in the horizontal criteria for equal opportunities and non-discrimination, by helping parents in work-life conciliation.



#### 7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments:

The start-up of the "Agora" EPEC is in full harmony with the educational planning of the Government of Andalusia, reaffirming its will to contribute to the achievement of a better trained, more fair and tolerant society. This is done by having the aim of promoting an educational system marked by quality in which knowledge acquisition and responsible training of the citizenship converge.







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