

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS DE HACIENDA DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS







BUENAS PRÁCTICAS Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

"Project of extension of the Broadband of New Generation of Aragon, ConectAragón" in the four Aragonese regions of the Pyrenees bordering France Government of Aragon

Programa Operativo de Aragón

Año 2018

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

EXTENSION PROJECT OF THE BROADBAND OF NEW GENERATION CONECTARAGÓN IN THE FOUR ARAGONESE PYRENEAN REGIONS BORDERING WITH FRANCE

DESCRIPTION

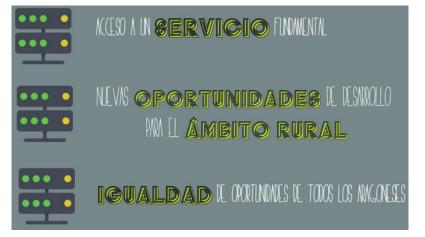
The operation "Project of extension of the Broadband of New Generation of Aragon, ConectAragón" in the four Aragonese regions of the Pyrenees bordering France, consists of the deployment, exploitation, maintenance and commercialization of an access network and transport of electronic communications to allow the access of broadband services of at least 30 megabits per second (Mbps) in the Pyrenean area of Aragon, with whose access, to date, was non-existent or of very low quality, particularly in the La Jacetania, Alto Gállego, Sobrarbe and La Ribargorza Regions.

This is a fundamental operation because the extension of broadband in these territories is a basic instrument to achieve the structuring of the territory, reduce distances and the time allocated to managements.

In Aragon, advanced broadband services and infrastructures to support them were found in the most densely populated areas, while they were inadequate or nonexistent in other areas that are commercially attractive to electronic communications operators. This left the citizens and companies part of the territory without the possibility of having adequate access to broadband and the services it offers. Therefore, it has been wanted to bring High Capacity Broadband services to any population of the territory, especially in the so-called White Areas, which are those areas in which until now it had not been profitable to deploy them for private operators.

Thanks to progress and technological development, in the field of sectors such as health care it will be possible to introduce services such as the one to share online clinical records (which include very large high-definition images), the taking of medical images from a distance (for the exchange of radiological diagnoses), telemedicine and telecare. Electronic teaching is also expected to grow rapidly, thanks to services such as virtual training, distance laboratories, digital network libraries and virtual meeting points. As well as, Electronic Administration services, etc. As a consequence of this situation, a notable increase in broadband capacity, speed and connectivity services is needed with respect to the current situation.

The amount executed of this operation, to date, is 4,364,825 euros, with ERDF assistance amounting to 2,182,412 euros, which has allowed a total of 6,811 Aragonese to have Broadband services of at least 30Mbps. and 35 educational centers of the indicated territorial zone.



This operation is considered a Good Practice because:

1. The action has been conveniently disseminated among potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The action has been disseminated through the <u>website</u> of the General Directorate of Electronic Administration and Information Society of the Government of Aragon, and the <u>specific website</u> of the operation, where the citizen can interactively consult the execution of the operation by municipalities and educational centers, according to their preference.

Website del Gobierno de Aragón:



Specific website ConectAragón:



Similarly, the Government of Aragon has made an important communication campaign in online press to publicize the new services offered by the extension of Broadband in Aragon, let's see some examples:

Government of Aragón web news:



Government of Aragón web news:

Guillén, en Bruselas: "El Gobierno de Aragón ha invertido en banda ancha porque entendimos que era un elemento clave para luchar contra la despoblación"

El consejero de Presidencia ha respaldado en el pleno del Comité Europeo de las Regiones una iniciativa para impulsar internet de alta velocidad y ha conflado en que Aragón será uno de los primeros territorios con el 100% de la población conectada.

El consejero de Presidencia, Vicente Guillén, ha subrayado esta tarde en Bruselas la importancia de la banda ancha para combatir la despoblación, especialmente en territorios como Aragón de amplias zonas rurales tan necesitadas de todo tipo de conexiones, viarias, energéticas y, cada vez más, de conectividad a internet en alta velocidad.

Guillén asiste en la capital belga al 128º Pleno del Comité Europeo de las Regiones (CDR), la asamblea de los representantes locales y regionales de la Unión Europea (UE), que da voz directa a los entes subnacionales, es decir, regiones, provincias, município sy ciudades,



dentro del marco institucional comunitario. El pleno, que ha comenzado esta tarde y concluye mañana viernes, ha respaldado en su primera sesión una iniciativa para impulsar la banda ancha en Europa.

En este contexto, el consejero ha defendido el papel que tiene la conectividad de banda ancha para generar oportunidades en los territorios que están viviendo cambios estructurales causados por la pérdida de población. El debate en torno a las conexiones de alta capacidad se ha producido a raíz del dictamen "Impulsar la conectividad de banda ancha en Europa", que se ha aprobado en la primera sesión del pieno del CDR con el voto favorable de Aragón.

En este documento se alerta de que la lentitud de la conexión a internet y la escasa penetración en las zonas rurales, así como los problemas que entientan las regiones menos pobladas, podrían convertirse en un impedimento para alcanzar objetivos de conectividad de la Comisión, como los que fueron definidos para el año 2020 en la Agenda Digital para Europa.

Conscientes de esta problemática, ha explicado el consejero de Presidencia, desde el Gobierno de Aragón se ha realizado una gran inversión a través de los planes de despliegue de banda ancha como ConectAragón. Este plan, que ha contado con una inversión de 36,5 milliones de euros y está cofinanciado al 50% por el Fonde Europeo de Desarrollo Regional en el marco del Programa Operativo FEDER Aragón 2014-2020 -cuyo lema es "Construyendo Europa dede Aragón", ya ha llevado el senvicio de banda ancha a 96 localidades de la provincia de Zaragoza, 110 de Huesca y 114 de Teruel. "Entendimos que era un elemento clave para luchar contra la despoblación", ha destacado el consejero. On the other hand, and in order that the public knows the new services that it allows in development of the Broadband in Aragon, the different means of communication of the Autonomous Community have echoed the success of this operation co-financed under the OP ERDF Aragón 2014-2020:

Heraldo de Aragón:

La banda ancha llega al 95% de localidades y centros del Plan ConectAragón

ConectAragón establece conexiones de al menos 30 megas en las localidades y de entre 50 y 100 para los centros educativos. Ha contado con una inversión de 26´5 millones de euros y **está cofinanciado con Fondos Europeos FEDER**, dentro del PO FEDER Aragón 2014-2020 **'Construyendo Europa desde Aragón'.**

Diario de AltoAragón:

La alta velocidad de internet llega a 110 núcleos de la provincia

Con la finalización de estos proyectos y sumado a los planes de las operadoras, "Aragón será una de las primeras comunidades de Europa en contar con el cien por cien de su población y municipios conectados a banda ancha para finales de 2019", adelantándose a la fecha marcada por la Comisión Europea que establece el objetivo en 2020.

ConectAragón establece conexiones de al menos 30 megas en las localidades y de entre 50 y 100 para los centros educativos.

Ha contado con una inversión de 26,5 millones de euros y está cofinanciado con Fondos Europeos Feder, dentro del Programa Operativo Feder Aragón 2014-2020 "Construyendo Europa desde Aragón".

Similarly, at a national level, the extension operation of Broadband in Aragon has had repercussions given the pioneering nature of it. Let's see some examples:

Expansión:

Un año clave para la extensión de la banda ancha a todo Aragón

Tal y como estaba previsto, ConectAragón finalizará su extensión en 2018. En estos momentos, más de 300 localidades aragonesas y 315 centros educativos cuentan ya con servicio de banda ancha. El plan establece 348 localidades y ya se encuentran en servicio 105 de la provincia de Huesca, 92 en la de Zaragoza y 109 de Teruel. En cuanto a centros educativos, de un total de 351, ya están en funcionamiento 79 en Huesca, 126 en Zaragoza y 110 en la provincia de Teruel. Previsiblemente, al finalizar el primer semestre de 2018 el plan estará ejecutado por completo. ConectAragón permite que llegue la banda ancha a alrededor de 100.000 habitantes, con conexiones de al menos 30 Mbps. En los centros educativos las velocidades de conexión son de entre 50 y 100 Mbps. Para la realización de ConectAragón se realiza una inversión de 365 millones de euros y está cofinanciado con Fondos Europeos FEDER.

Likewise, and given the importance of the operation, other means of communication have been used in order to be able to disseminate with full quality the benefits derived from it. In this case, even with a <u>video</u> that allows you to understand the origin, the measures and the results achieved:



And, finally, the dissemination format has also been adopted in specialized journals on the subject, such as <u>AragónInvestiga</u>:



2. The action incorporates innovative elements.

The project makes available to any telecommunications operator the network so they can provide the service, both direct access and indirect access, respecting technological neutrality by enabling services provided through various telecommunications technologies, wireless networks, etc., all at the lowest possible cost to take advantage of existing networks. It should also be borne in mind that the high mountain singularity of the area that has been intervened has required the implementation of technologies that ensure, on the one hand, the development of the operation and, on the other, allow for the incorporation of measures to minimize its landscape impact in respectful sites in the matter, as well as the environmental sustainability of the devices placed in attention to the climatic diversities.



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

With the execution of this action have been achieved, as already mentioned, achieve satisfactory results to reach 6,811 Aragonese with broadband access of at least 30 Mbps and 35 schools in the designated territorial area. The objectives of the action are thus fulfilled, promoting the deployment of New Generation Broadband networks and services, particularly in sparsely populated areas and promoting market unity

4. Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the territorial scope of execution.

For the Autonomous Community of Aragon, one of the most affected by the problem of depopulation in Spain, the fact that the municipalities of Aragon have a broadband connection is the objective that has been set by the Government of Aragon as part of the strategy for combat this situation. In particular, as has been pointed out, the action benefits a geographical area with relevant demographic challenges, that is, the Pyrenean area of the region, which has a very low population density in high mountain areas, a strong population dispersion and an aging elevated

All ConectAragón Network Interconnection Points have the availability of indirect access from the start of the commissioning of these. The Project thus enables the early fulfillment of the objectives of the European Digital Agenda in Aragon.

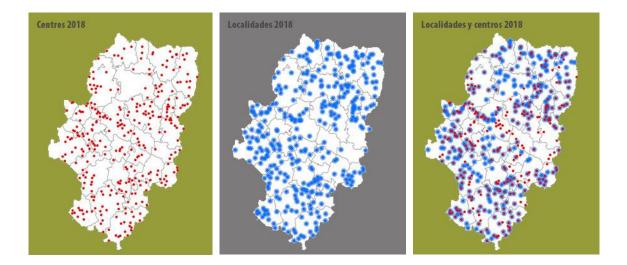
In addition, the improvement of digital connectivity throughout the territory of Aragon makes it possible in the same electronic administration, electronic health, electronic commerce, electronic learning, electronic inclusion, electronic culture, that is, access for all to Digital Growth.

5. High degree of coverage on the target population of the action.

The action is directed to the population of the Autonomous Community and, in particular, the 4 Comarcas indicated in the presentation of this Good Practice. Specifically, it is aimed at households in the municipalities of Aragón. To do this, we take the number of inhabitants of the areas where we act, the so-called White Areas, and divide it by the average number of inhabitants per household, thus obtaining the number of Aragonese benefited by the action and, therefore, , they will have access to the Internet with a download speed of at least 30 Mbps, when before they had more limited access or had no access at all.

With the ConectAragón Project, at least 30 Mbps of coverage will be provided to 348 population centers, which in population terms will reach close to 100,000 inhabitants.

These nuclei are all located in the so-called White Zones, that is to say, those in which, due to their difficult access and / or low population density, there is no expectation or that private operators offer Band coverage.



6. Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities, environmental sustainability and / or social responsibility.

The project favors in an indistinct way all the population of the connected nuclei since any person of them will be able to use the services provided by the operators. All people, regardless of gender or age, will benefit equally.

Favoring the possibility of a greater and more effective access to the use of Information and Telecommunications Technologies, always implies the appearance of new opportunities for access to the labor market in line with the policies of equal opportunities.

Regarding environmental sustainability, there is no doubt that the existence of better telecommunications networks, suppose an undeniable support in the fight against situations of risk for the conservation of the environment. On the other hand, the present project has taken advantage of the use, where possible, of existing infrastructures, which, in addition to economic savings, implies a reduction in the environmental impact of the new deployments.

7. Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention

The deployment phase of the ConectAragón project is complemented by the development of new initiatives that allow the percentage of coverage of new generation broadband services to continue to increase.

Among them, highlights the "All Broadband Aragon" Plan, designed in close coordination with the <u>Provincial Councils</u> of Aragon with the aim of covering White Zones of Aragon not covered by ConectAragón. This Plan will involve, in the province of Huesca, the connection of 321 population



Other initiatives that can also be cited are the New Generation Broadband Extension Program (PEBA), of the Central Government.

The objective pursued with these initiatives is to accelerate the extension of the coverage of public electronic communications networks capable of providing high speed and very high speed broadband services to areas without current coverage or planned in the next years, which will improve the functionality and quality of digital services and thereby increase the welfare and quality of life of citizens, contributing to the success of a sustainable growth model.

It is, precisely, that sustainable growth to which the operation directly contributes in the areas indicated above given that, due to the strong territorial challenges, the access to broadband seems like a basic instrument to reduce the distances between companies, citizens and public administrations.

In terms of data opening, <u>Aragón Open Data</u>, open data portal of the Government of Aragon, has continued to grow with a new page to facilitate its services and resources to the citizen, also increasing the catalog of open data, expanding it with real-time data and even giving as fruit an application for mobile devices. This portal has also increased the quality of searches and the discovery of information to promote greater participation and proximity to end users.

In the axis of support to the business fabric, the organization of congresses, fairs and ICT events in Aragon has been supported; It has organized, among others, a cycle of events on the importance of social networks in the Aragonese productive sectors, specifically in transportation, wine, tourism, employment, sports, banking and governance, and actions have been developed to strengthen the Aragonese ICT system, promoting innovation through collaboration between companies in the sector, universities, clusters and other agents of the innovative system.



SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS DE HACIENDA DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS





Una manera de hacer Europa

BUENAS PRÁCTICAS Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional