





## Una manera de Bacer Europa



RECONSTRUCTION AND EXTENSION OF THE BINISSALEM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT Agencia Balear del Agua y la Calidad Ambiental (ABAQUA)

# Programa Operativo de Illes Balears

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

### RECONSTRUCTION AND EXTENSION OF THE BINISSALEM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

#### Basic project description.

Until the start of this action, the system for the waste-water disposal and treatment of the towns of Sencelles and Binissalem was limited to their capacity and no improvement had been carried out since 1994. Based on the projected population growth and the outdated state of its facilities, it was advisable to reshape and expand the wastewater treatment system through a more efficient and advanced clean-up process to deliver better returns, simpler maintenance and increased operational flexibility.

The project consists of a comprehensive reform, extension and improvement in treatment of the Binissalem Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), which covers the municipality of Binissalem (central and industrial estate) and the municipality of Sencelles (nucleus). The project also includes the construction of a 3.250 m long barrel to drive the excess water, which is not acceptable to the lagoons until the Almadrà Torrent, as well as the emptying and cleaning of the evaporation and infiltration lagoons.

The new biological treatment comprising two biological reactors and two secondary decanters that must be highlighted; this also includes all the recirculation, purging and complementary sections. In addition, some WWTP buildings have been remodeled and adapted for partially different functions as they still could be seized.

The project was prepared by the *Agencia Balear del Agua y la Calidad Ambiental* (ABAQUA) and awarded the construction of the remodeling and extension of the **Binissalem WWTP**, with a total investment of EUR 3.016.772€ and ERDF assistance of EUR 1.508.386€



With the increase of plant capacity, the maximum water flow rate to be treated has been increased by 120 %, 2.200 m/day, which is **equivalent to a maximum population of 14.667 inhabitants,** whereas before only a population of 5.000 people could be served

Below, the arguments that make both projects are considered as Good Practices are presented, according to the criteria defined for these purposes.

#### Criterion 1. High dissemination among the beneficiaries and the general public.

This action has been widely disseminated through the various information and publicity measures developed. In particular, all regulatory reporting obligations, such as:

Among the **compulsory measures** implemented in accordance with Community law, the following should be noted:

During the execution of the work, a **temporary information poster** on the project was put in place to comply with the rules on information and communication measures and that it was replaced by a **permanent plaque** affixed to the site at the entrance to the premises as laid down in the Implementing Regulation as an investment with a public contribution of over EUR 500.000.





This visibility has been reinforced by the information contained in a specific section **of the ABAQUA website** about the different projects it promotes under the 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Programme of the Balearic Islands, including the EDAR de Binissalem



ABAQUA Website dedicated to informing about the projects co-financed by the ERDF

http://abaqua.es/es/esdepuracion/fondos-europeos/

In addition, **additional information and publicity measures** have been carried out which have increased the dissemination of the project as well as the visibility of the ERDF contribution to the project. In this regard, the following actions should be highlighted

Various **information notices** have been produced in the news section of the website of the Balearic Islands Government and **news from various media** of the Balearic Islands on the launch of the action, its progress and results.



News about the new WWTP in Binissalem

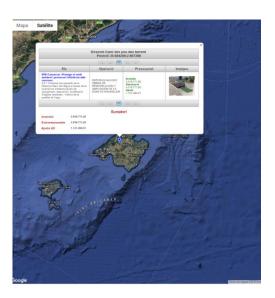
This high impact has been facilitated by the **institutional visits** to the state of play of the action, highlighting that made in August 2018, following the completion of the work, which was attended by a delegation of the Govern, led by the President of the Govern de les Illes Balears and the Minister for the Environment.



Another dissemination channel is the **mapping system** for co-financed projects of DG Funds, located on its website (<a href="http://www.caib.es/sites/fonseuropeus/ca/portada\_2016/?campa=yes">http://www.caib.es/sites/fonseuropeus/ca/portada\_2016/?campa=yes</a>). This application on line, which is accessible to anyone, makes it possible to visualize, not only the geographic location of the investment, but also systemized data on the name, field of intervention, co-financier, EU aid, total eligible cost and even pictures of the investment made.

In the **European Funds Information Bulletin of the Balearic Islands** in April 2019 edition, it has also included a reference to the project and the ERDF contribution in its implementation, paying particular attention to the results achieved through this investment





European Funds Information Bulletin of the Balearic Islands ( $N^{o}$  5, April 2019)

Picture of the system for locating co-financed projects in the Balearic Islands

Information about the project and its co-financing by the ERDF has also been disseminated through other information channels. In this way, **informative leaflets** have been designed with the most relevant data on the investment and the UE contribution, which have been distributed by the different points foreseen in the Communication Strategy for the 2014-2020 ERDF and ESF OP of the Balearic Islands.





Informative leaflets WWTP Binissalem

#### **Criterion 2. Incorporating innovative elements.**

As an innovative element, it highlights the introduction of innovative biological treatment, which provides for the installation of two secondary biological reactors and two secondary decanters. This means that the plant is used by micro-organisms to remove the existing

contamination and thus to restore the water to the stream by generating the minimum environmental impact, significantly improving the quality of purified water.

With regard to the lagoons, the mud sediments that had been deposited in the fund for more than 20 years have been cleaned up or have been treated appropriately. This has made it possible to increase the capacity of the gaps and improve the state of the water, which is said to be close to the gaps, as one party evaporates and the other is infiltrating.



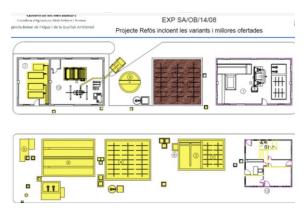


Control elements and control devices established at the Binissalem WWTP

#### Criterio 3. Adecuación de los resultados obtenidos a los objetivos establecidos.

The results obtained with the project are adapted to the objectives set, in compliance with the Water Framework Directive. In particular, the entry into operation of the enlarged and reformed treatment plant will improve water quality and significantly increase waste water treatment capacity, reaching 2.200 cubic meters per day.

The system used will make costs cheaper and benefit the environment, resulting, on the one hand, in significant **economic savings** and, on the other hand, in a **reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** from electricity costs, as biological waste water treatment uses bacterial processes to dispose of waste, resulting in efficient, economic and ecological use, by not using chemical elements or requiring the use of electricity or other fuels to feed the sewage plants.



Scheme of the operation of the Binissalem WWTP

In this perspective, the results achieved suggest that the objectives set have been achieved. In addition, it is important to stress the great advantage **of reducing polluting discharges to the environment**, since the fluids produced are purified and therefore do not pose any risk to the ecosystem. In parallel, purified water can be used for other possible alternative uses.

#### Criterio 4. Contribución a la resolución de un problema o debilidad regional

Among the main water challenges facing the Balearic Islands is that of taking care of existing aquifers in their territory. Then, it is essential, among other things, to prevent pollution by nitrates. In this sense, one of the factors behind this problem stems from badly cleaned water discharged into streams for many years and which have been infiltrated in the subsoil



Aereal image of the Binissalem treatment plant

The improvement of sanitation and wastewater treatment infrastructure is therefore a priority. In this regard, there is a need to strengthen investment in the construction and rehabilitation of WWTP, collector sewers, interconnectors, etc., so as to ensure the treatment of waste water. The aim is to increase the coverage of the service and to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

#### **Criterion 5. High coverage of the target population**

The additional population served by better wastewater treatment through investment in the treatment plant is 14.677 in terms of population equivalent, covering the municipalities of Binissalem and Sencelles.



## Criterion 6. Taking into account the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability.

With regard to **sustainable development**, the project has a clear positive environmental impact, since it contributes to solving the problem of waste water treatment and the use of sludge arising from the process.

In addition to a necessary reality, the purification of waste water is also a legal obligation, which has a direct impact on the quality of water. Indeed, this investment in the Balearic Islands is making progress towards meeting the objectives set out in *the Water Framework Directive*.

However, the environmental improvement of purification involves not only reducing polluting discharges to the receiving channels, but also raises good collateral improvements as a result of the scrubber process. In fact, there is a cycle of energy, which allows for a number of forms of use, such as the reduction of pollution, energy production by cogeneration, agricultural production, etc.

From the point of view of **equal opportunities** between women and men, due to the characteristics of the project, there is no direct impact in this area. In any case, it should be noted that the use of sexist language has been avoided throughout the project management cycle.

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

The work is part of the **Hydrological Plan of the Balearic Islands**, which was approved by the Council of Ministers on 17 July 2015







This project leads to the fulfillment of the requirements of the **Water Framework Directive** through investment in wastewater infrastructure, purification and reuse of wastewater, and improved water quality.

In this regard, it is also complementary with a number of other actions that ABAQUA is developing in order to improve the sewage treatment systems as well as to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

In the same way, this action is consistent with the objectives of the **Special Plan for Action on Alert and possible drought in the Balearic Islands (PESIB)**, approved by the Government on 15 December 2017. These objectives relate to ensuring the provision of water to the population with sufficient quality and avoiding or minimizing the negative impact on aquatic ecosystems, groundwater bodies and the economic activities themselves.

In addition, the investment carried out complements those set out in **Plan to promote sustainable tourism in the Balearic Islands**, which includes the development of water cycle optimization projects, such as improvements to the drinking water network, purification and desalination and the reuse of water.







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