



Una manera de hacer Europa



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Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

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GOOD PRACTICE EDUSI EIX BESÒS, BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS FOR THE RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE SARAJEVO BRIDGE

The good practice consists of the renovation and improvement of the Sarajevo Bridge, in response to Barcelona City Council's desire to convert it into a public space and improve the connection between the neighbourhoods of Trinitat Nova and Trinitat Vella, the point where the districts of Nou Barris and Sant Andreu meet.



The project consists of converting the previously existing bridge (with a roadway that looks more like a highway than an urban street) into a single-platform Green Bridge for priority pedestrian use, which allows for calmer road traffic and a friendlier connection between the Trinitat Vella and Trinitat Nova neighbourhoods, incorporating sustainability concepts and criteria. It also connects the two neighbourhoods' urban green spaces and at the same time connects them to the Collserola Natural Park.

During the development of the project, sustainable construction elements have been implemented (such as sound-absorbent paving, low-consumption and energy-efficient lighting) and there is a green wall that improves the quality of the urban landscape and is part of the urban redevelopment work carried out in the neighbourhood.

The total budget for the project is €2,167,000 and the European Regional Development Fund

(ERDF) assistance is €509,000. It is estimated that the project will have an impact on the Barcelona municipal area, specifically in the Districts of Nou Barris and Sant Andreu and on a population of 17,244 (the Trinitat Nova neighbourhood with 7,261 inhabitants and the Trinitat Vella neighbourhood with 9,983 inhabitants).

The criteria for the identification and determination of this Best Practice are as follows:

1. INFORMATION ON THE INITIATIVE HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY DISSEMINATED TO BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Information regarding the Sarajevo Bridge has been disseminated extensively among the beneficiaries. **Regulatory communication** was published in the Contractor Profile of the municipal operator Barcelona d'Infraestructures Municipals (BIMSA) and the companies awarded the different contracts related to the project were informed that the initiative is part of the EDUSI Eix Besòs project, which is part of Spain's Multiregional Operational Programme and is 50% co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

At the end of the project, a permanent plaque with information about the co-funding was put into place:



In addition, a lectern was set up to display the Project's objective:



Regarding **complementary communication**, the news published in the OBRA Newsletter of the Barcelona City Council in February 2019, on the EDUSI project and with details of the Project, should be highlighted.



The project has also been publicised via the Barcelona City Council news website and the EDUSI project website.





A video was made that showed the experience of improving the bridge from the point of view of the local residents and with technical interviews with the architectural firm responsible for its design, explaining the sustainability criteria and how the public space was controlled.



Finally, the improvement and renovation of the Sarajevo Bridge is part of the collection of Cuadernos de Buenas Prácticas, published by the Barcelona City Council regarding actions considered good practices in the framework of the EDUSI Eix Besòs project.



2. THE INITIATIVE INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

In relation to the innovative nature of the project, it is important to highlight that the bridge is **intended as a public space**, meant to feel like a plaza and not just a road, to cease to be used primarily by vehicles and become a more intimate space for residents. It has a scenic overlook and is notable for its convenient walking area, which has priority over road traffic.

The bridge is intended to be more than a simple connection between two neighbourhoods and aims to become an **emblematic element** for the city: the "Gateway to Barcelona". Its location from Avenida Meridiana means it is a welcome into the city of Barcelona and is at the end of the motorways that access the city, and also connects the two sides of Avenida Meridiana. Hence, the bridge is a uniquely strategic point for innovative initiatives.







It is a **green space** that forms part of the green corridors that connect the city of Barcelona and the Collserola Natural Park through urban arteries. These green corridors have dominant plant life and are pedestrian and bicycle friendly, either exclusively or as a priority, and are able to link nature with the surrounding urban area.

The landscaping on the Sarajevo Bridge acts as a lung and regenerates a rundown space, giving it a new image of friendliness and a strong relationship between people and the environment, and makes it a sustainability benchmark for new public spaces in Barcelona.

Finally, the **sustainability of the proposal** is notably innovative, due to the sustainable landscaping that incorporates native plants and water reuse systems and uses recycled materials for paving and outdoor furniture. Furthermore, the project's energy efficiency stands out, as it is characterised by the use of renewable energies by means of photovoltaic panels placed on the pergolas, thus avoiding energy costs. All the main lighting is based on the LED system, which reduces consumption, and is supported by a photovoltaic energy collection system to make the installation as self-sufficient as possible. All elements of the project are designed to keep maintenance costs as low as possible.

3. THE RESULTS OBTAINED ARE IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES SET

The Project objective was to carry out the necessary actions for the implementation of a **sustainable mobility model** (healthy and low-carbon) in the area, prioritising urban quality of life and collective well-being and promoting the creation of a comfortable public space that favours community coexistence in the urban environment.

The refurbishment and improvement of the Sarajevo Bridge turns it into a carbon dioxide (CO2) reducing space, as it emphasises the change in priority and the single platform and resolves the interaction between pedestrians and vehicles. At the same time, the creation of a green wall helps absorb CO2, as the space has deck areas with vegetation. This changes the image of the bridge and transforms it into one of the gateways to Barcelona and a continuation of the green corridors of the Collserola Natural Park.

Therefore, the Bridge has implied the implementation of comprehensive urbanisation measures that have reduced traffic, promoted sustainable mobility and recovered public space for people. It is currently contributing to the modal shift towards more sustainable modes of transportation by implementing new measures to contain and restrict car use, replacing parking spaces and roadways with pedestrian areas, trees and outdoor urban furniture, thus contributing to the improvement of urban space on a human scale and making the Besàs Area a new space that is good for the environment and the public, by increasing its climate change resilience.

4. IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE RESOLUTION OF A REGIONAL PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS

The project presented responds to several weaknesses detected in the region. The first dates back to the wave of migration in the middle of the last century, when the neighbourhoods of Trinitat Nova and Trinitat Vella grew in response to the demand for housing, with the massive construction of housing and residential estates and with public space of little or poor quality, a fact that characterises the Besòs Area as a whole. The improvement of urban spaces and the creation of friendly and comfortable gathering spaces therefore contribute to reversing this situation and responded to a historical demand.

Moreover, both neighbourhoods are located at the gateway of Barcelona. Their geography is determined by the layout of road infrastructures (motorways and railways), and they are far from the District and city centres, which has helped accentuate the sense of isolation of the neighbourhoods. In addition, the steep slopes of Collserola and the unlevel land affect accessibility and connectivity within the neighbourhoods themselves and with the surrounding environment. The opportunity that the Sarajevo Bridge provides for interconnection between the two neighbourhoods and between the neighbourhoods and the city helps to break the historical isolation that has characterised this part of the city of Barcelona.

5. IT REACHES A GOOD PORTION OF THE TARGET POPULATION

The scope of the project is the Sarajevo Bridge itself, from Carrer Mireia to Carrer S'Agaró, including a section of Carrer Sa Tuna. With the aim of converting the Sarajevo Bridge from a connection between neighbourhoods to the Barcelona Gateway, and transforming it into a more pleasant, relational public space, the planned initiatives are useful and beneficial to the population of the entire city of Barcelona.

Specifically, the project is located right at the point where Avinguda Meridiana turns from a street into a motorway, and where two different levels coexist: a traffic light was placed at the lower level to facilitate the connection between neighbourhoods, making it a street, and on the top level the character of the Sarajevo Bridge was reverted. Therefore, this initiative's scope of work is concentrated in the Districts of Nou Barris and Sant Andreu and on a population of 17,244 (the Trinitat Nova neighbourhood with 7,261 inhabitants and the Trinitat Vella neighbourhood with 9,983 inhabitants).

6. THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

The implementation of the project contributes the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination on grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The Barcelona City Council's "Manual on Urban Planning in Everyday Life" incorporates the gender perspective into the urban planning that takes place in the city, in order to place everyday life at the centre of its policies and respond to the needs of the city as a whole from an inclusive perspective. The aim of this new approach is to ensure that public spaces address all people's needs equally and

incorporates new approaches. In its principles of inclusive urban planning, Barcelona City Council establishes that it must be sustainable (an urban model compatible with existing natural resources), participatory (the community must be part of the decision-making process regarding everyday space) or intersectional (incorporating gender, i.e. taking into account gender differences and inequalities and guaranteeing equal access to all goods and resources).

In general terms, it incorporates the measures necessary to respond to the objectives set out in the 2015-2019 Barcelona City Council Second Equal Opportunities Plan for Men and Women, approved by agreement of the Plenary on 27 March 2015.

In addition, during the procurement processes, the guidelines and standards for social public procurement are used, as well as the Mayor's Decree on sustainable public procurement approved by the Barcelona City Council on 24 April 2017, which includes social, environmental, ethical and innovation measures, guaranteeing the labour, social and citizen rights of the people executing the contract and the people it affects.

Regarding the contribution to the Sustainable Development objective, the criteria established in the Environmental Public Procurement Guide are used, as well as in the aforementioned Mayoral Decree itself, which promotes sustainable public procurement.

7. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The improvement and renovation of the bridge is part of a series of initiatives, projects and works in the surrounding areas, such as in Trinitat Vella, where the new development of the Carretera de Ribes has been carried out, which has become a separate road from Avinguda Meridiana to form the Ronda de Trinitat Vella (Trinitat Vella Ring Road) along with Via Barcino. The repair of slopes and ramps and the installation of the lift linking Avinguda Meridiana with the upper part of the neighbourhood have been carried out. Also in Trinitat Nova, the development of Carrer de la Llosa has been carried out, as well as the development of the area gained as public space after the construction of the Bus-VAO retaining wall. This space is a park for pedestrian use only.

All the projects relating to the development of the streets along the Avinguda Meridiana are part of the previous planning period 2007 - 2013, co-financed by the ERDF. In addition, within the framework of Law 2/2004, of 4 June, on the improvement of neighbourhoods, urban areas and villas requiring special attention (Llei de Barris, Act on Neighbourhoods), the Generalitat de Catalunya co-funded the complete development of the streets of the Trinitat Vella neighbourhood.

The contribution of the current planning period will complement the work done so far to improve public space, mobility and sustainability of neighbourhoods.





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