



### Una manera de lacer Europa



"Installation in one of the frontages of the City Council of Ciudad Real of a vertical garden that contributes to the improvement of the air conditioning"

**City Council of Ciudad Real** 

# Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

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The action "Installation in one of the frontages of the City Council of Ciudad Real of a vertical garden that contributes to the improvement of the air conditioning" is presented as a Good Practice.

This action has consisted of the construction of a vertical garden equipped with 2,500 plants of about fifteen different species, which acts as a bioclimatic thermal envelope for part of the building's frontage. This is the second phase of the Ciudad Real City Council's Energy Rehabilitation works, which have allowed for comprehensive action.



Taking advantage of the need to carry out improvements to the façade of the Municipal Tourist Office, a modular system of easy maintenance that houses the plantations has been installed. It has a recirculated irrigation system to optimize water consumption, and sensors to check the state of the vegetation. This 62 square meters vertical garden is fully automated to improve its performance through a control system with remote access that allows to adapt the detected needs of water or nutrients of the plants.



It is considered a good practice since:

Works have allowed the adaptation of the existing interior patio at the back of the Tourist Office to locate the necessary technical installation, as well as the passage of water pipes through a false ceiling.

It also includes the integral maintenance of the system through specialized personnel to guarantee the control and supervision of the installation, fertilization, phytosanitary treatments, pruning or the replacement of plants that need it.

The eligible cost of this action is 99,800 euros, the ERDF aid being 80,000 euros, and the impact of this translates into the reduction of air conditioning needs in the building by 25%.

1.- The role of the ERDF in the action has been spread properly among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general inhabitants:

Citizens has been well informed since the action has been broadcast in compliance with the communication obligations set out in the Regulations, with its corresponding poster, plaque, and informing about it on the single portal (<a href="http://edusiciudadreal.es">http://edusiciudadreal.es</a>).





During the execution of the works, a fence with information of the works and the contribution of the ERDF was installed, as well in the bidding procedure.





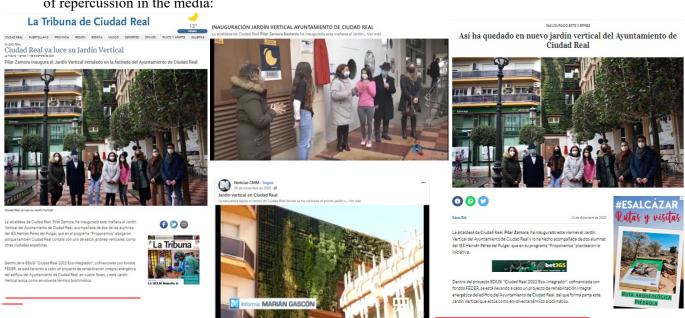
The project has been conveniently disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general inhabitants thanks to different communication actions focused on the publication of news and reports in newspapers and digital newspapers:







The inauguration of the Vertical Garden by the mayoress of Ciudad Real, Pilar Zamora, had a lot of repercussion in the media:



And the completion of the garden, a video that summarizes the actions that have been carried out was edited:





In addition, a special program about the vertical garden was broadcasted on a local radio station, and advertisements were published in provincial newspapers:





Also on the municipal website and in all the press releases that have been prepared by the City Council, it has been announced that the action is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).





In addition, a diptych has been published with information on the vertical garden, its characteristics and benefits for the Environment, which is available to citizens and tourists who come to the Tourist Office.



#### 2.- This action has incorporated innovative elements.

In the execution of the vertical garden, a new modular textile system called "Fytotextile" has been used, which is innovative for housing the plants. It is a technology that consists of some modules that are connected to a structure anchored to the support wall, formed by pockets in which the plants are housed. It has a capacity for 40-49 plants per square meter.

This system is made up of three layers of synthetic, organic and flexible material with an openable upper flange to include the drip irrigation line. Each of them has a function: to isolate, to optimize irrigation in a homogeneous way, and to allow the plants to breathe.

It is a special module adapted to European fire regulations. The entire garden has a recirculated irrigation system with its tanks, pumps, PH and conductivity control, and solenoid valves that allow the water to be recovered to be reused once it has been treated.

It is an automated system with various probes that measure humidity, PH and temperature, which can be controlled telematically, so that the entire operation can be controlled from a mobile phone or a computer.







Another novelty is that a study of the hours of sunshine has been carried out in the specific area where the Garden is installed to assess the suitability of the plants to be installed, so that they adapt better, and have less maintenance. As a result of this study, 17 different species have been planted with different types of flowering throughout the year.

A specific landscape design has also been made adapted to the shape of the frontage, which divides the surface into different strips with species of different textures and colors.

3.- Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives.

With the installation of the vertical garden, it was intended to install an efficient, innovative and environmentally friendly system that would improve the exterior cladding of this facade, improve the thermal insulation of the building, as well as generate a high ecological, landscape, architectural and social space in the city center.

Something that has been fulfilled with this project, since it allows to improve the thermal insulation of the City Council, achieving energy savings in the air conditioning of the same, since during the summer season the hot air is cooled by the green facade due to the evapotranspiration process of the plants that compose it. On the other hand, during the winter the thermal resistance of the vegetal layer prevents the heat from the interior of the building from being lost through the facade.

An action that complies with European requirements regarding the integration of green spaces in the built urban environment, promoting respect for the Environment.

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

In Ciudad Real during the summer the so-called "urban heat island" effect occurs, since the asphalt materials in streets and avenues, the concrete structures of the City Hall and the buildings in the center cause the surfaces to absorb and retain more heat. Therefore that increases the surface temperature, negatively affecting the well-being of the population.

The vertical garden on the facade of the Tourist Office acts as a natural thermal and acoustic barrier mitigating this "urban heat island" effect, reducing the ambient temperature of the surroundings, and also reducing the needs for air conditioning and heating, which supposes a reduction of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

In addition, indirectly, many other associated benefits are obtained. Among them, the plants in the vertical garden purify the air by converting CO2 into oxygen, creating a healthier environment, which allows citizens to promote the values of protection and respect for the environment. And together with this ecological value, it becomes a unique environment to be visited, so that with the attraction of tourism, the economic promotion of the city is increased.

#### 5.- Degree of coverage of the target population.

This action has a high degree of coverage. Not only people who live in the center of the city benefit from it, because there are many people who have to pass through this area since it is located in the nucleus where are located many of the public administrations in which they have to make administrative managements, next to a pedestrian shopping area, and the passageway between two squares (Mayo Square and Cervantes Square) where numerous hotel, restaurants and bars establishments are located.

The garden is located on the facade of the Tourist Office, which is the official stop for all tourists and organized groups that visit Ciudad Real to obtain information about the monuments, and the origin of the guided tours that are done.

And also all the workers of the City Council of Ciudad Real who work in the Town Hall building also benefit from it, thanks to the thermal insulation that is achieved, and the greater comfort of their jobs.

6.- Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability

This action is respectful of the regulations on equality between women and men and non-discrimination, promoting equality between men and women, since it has intervened without taking into account whether the improvement of isolation was carried out in areas occupied by men or by women, or those who will be able to enjoy the garden once it is built.



Regarding environmental sustainability, it has been possible to reduce the building's air conditioning needs by 25% and heating by 10%, with which this indirectly implies a reduction of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. It is estimated that the improvement in air quality that occurs is equivalent to the emissions caused by 9 cars over a year.

#### 8.- Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention:

The City Council of Ciudad Real is also carrying out a series of measures in terms of urban sustainability, such as in the pedestrianization of Toledo, Calatrava, Feria and Caballeros streets, where a draining green pavement has been installed in the old parking strips. It is a system that

collects water in periods of very intense rains, and that is the first time it has been used in Ciudad Real.

Ecological paving stones have also been used. These are paving stones made with recycled concrete and titanium dioxide that, when in contact with sunlight, degrades the atmospheric pollutants in the air, mainly vehicle emissions.

In addition, actions are being carried out in the area of circular economy such as a Waste Plan to enhance the green waste generated in the Department of the Sustainability, and various projects to improve energy efficiency in other municipal buildings for an amount of 95,000 euros for the improvement of energy efficiency through photovoltaic cells in the Quijote Arena Pavilion, the Municipal Market or the López-Villaseñor Museum.

The Castilla-La Mancha Community Government has also presented the reform project of the old "El



Carmen" Hospital to turn it into an Administrative City, which includes the cladding of the facade of this building with a ceramic "skin" in ocher tones so that it is more thermally efficient, and allows greater luminosity in the offices inside.





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