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Fundación Integra

Programa Operativo
de la Región de Murcia

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Open Government: REPLAY and Open Data in the Region of Murcia

Both initiatives are managed by **Fundación Integra**, a Regional Public Sector entity that is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia (CARM)

The objective of this initiative **(REPLAY)** is to **Retransmit City Hall Plenary Sessions on the Internet** by facilitating the live rebroadcasting or later viewing of all ordinary and extraordinary municipal plenary sessions at no charge, as a part of City Hall initiatives to provide transparency. The initiative focuses on a digital platform that provides multiple-channel access (smartphone, PC, tablet, Smart TV, etc.) to videos of the plenary sessions: REPLAY Portal (replay.redctnet.es)

The goal of **Open Data in the Region of Murcia** is for all regional public institutions to be able to publish their data on a web-based platform (datosabiertos.regiondemurcia.es) that meets all legal and regulatory requirements, without the need to make an investment or create their own open data web page; it provides its own individual data catalog and thus meets the legal and ethical obligation of making all the datasets these institutions possess available to the public.

The total investment in the development and promotion of these actions was **€131,734, including 80% (€105,387) co-financing from the ERDF 2014–2020 Operational Program for the Region of Murcia**.

The impact achieved from these two initiatives, thanks to the contribution of ERDF funds, was 133,373 new users on REPLAY and 423,173 new users on Open Data.

It is considered a Good Practice because it meets the following criteria:

1. **The role of the ERDF in the action was properly distributed and promoted among the stakeholders, potential users, and the general public.**

- Posters from the platforms:

- Screenshot from the REPLAY Portal (replay.redctnet.es)

- Screenshots of the apps for mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) and for Smart TVs.

App screen for the Smart TV app

- **2019 REPLAY Campaign Banner (3 images in an animated gif)**

2. **The action incorporates innovative features and contributes to solving a regional problem or weakness.**

Both platforms contribute to solving the problem of transparency of government actions and allow for the centralized publication of data from all public entities. **However, the true novelty is that they have allowed for the implementation of Open Government for all regional entities in one fell swoop.**

The innovative character of REPLAY and its optimization of existing public resources led the Regional Government to recognize it in 2018 with the second prize at the **Innovation and Best Practices Awards**.

3. **Adequacy of the results to the established objectives**

The goal of these two Open Government initiatives (REPLAY and Open Data in the Region of Murcia) was to address shortcomings and difficulties related to the transparency of regional public entities, where municipal plenary sessions were one of the best examples of local transparency, as well as to publish open data in line with European Commission recommendations. As a result, the objective was to consolidate the largest number of entities possible in these two initiatives in order to generate the greatest cost savings, synergy, and coverage for the entities that participated, achieving satisfactory results in both cases.
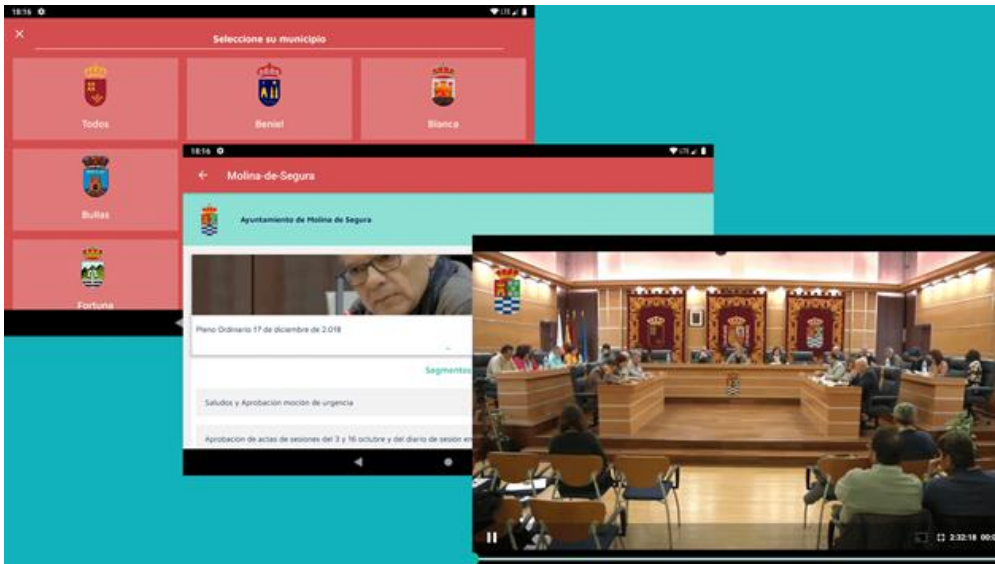
Currently, a large number of entities publish their open data through the Open Data in the Region of Murcia Portal, and many City Halls upload their plenary sessions to the internet so citizens may access them.

4. **It contributes to solving a regional problem or weakness.**

Spanish legislation mandates that public entities have an open data portal at the same time that it encourages different levels of government to act with the greatest level of transparency possible.

Prior to the implementation of the REPLAY and the Open Data in the Region of Murcia initiatives, very few City Halls provided online access to their plenary sessions, and even fewer public entities had portals for open data (the Regional Government of the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia did not even have one).

These regionally-focused initiatives greatly aid all local entities in meeting their obligations or, at a minimum, to improve in terms of transparency.

5. It applies to a high percentage of the targeted population.

Currently, more than 686,000 people can access municipal plenary sessions through the REPLAY initiative, which represents almost 46.5% of the population of the Region of Murcia.

Likewise, the total population whose City Halls publish their data on the Open Data in the Region of Murcia Portal is 516,000 people, which represents nearly 35% of the population of the region.

Of the two initiatives, City Halls use REPLAY to a greater extent, and as a result, it is the one which has greater target population coverage.

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

Having a single regional platform (HW and SW) for multiple entities to address the problems that the REPLAY and Open Data in the Region of Murcia initiatives target means not only cost savings and synergy for the participating entities but also overall regional savings in digital and IT resources, which has a favorable impact on the environment.

In addition, the platforms are free to use for participating entities, and users are not required to register under any circumstances. Access is online and free, which means people avoid traveling (to attend plenary sessions) and is also completely equitable for all citizens: men and women, regardless of their location (rural or urban), social condition, or any other characteristic.

7. Synergy with other policy or public intervention instruments.

Synergy in the area of transparency is evident, given that both platforms are aligned with the different City Hall and public entity policies to this effect; a solution was provided for these issues with a one-time investment from ERDF and CARM funds, management by the Foundation.

In addition, one of the applications created for Open Data in the Region of Murcia has enabled the cultural calendar from the Digital Region of Murcia portal, which was also financed with ERDF (previous operational program) and CARM funds, to reach a greater audience and achieve greater use.

Yet another application allows the public to use of data created by the Murcian Institute of Food and Agriculture Research and Development (IMIDA), which has likewise received ERDF funds to provide improved service to farmers in the Region of Murcia.

Political initiatives that receive funding from the ERDF, as well as those that do not, are also indirectly disseminated when they are addressed in municipal plenary sessions, or their results are published on the open data portal.

Moreover, these open data are registered with the governmental entity **datos.gob.es**, which gives them national and international visibility.

Likewise, both **Open Government initiatives (REPLAY and Open Data)** are supported by the CTnet network (Science, Technology, and Information Society of the Region of Murcia), which makes the most of the incredible regional public infrastructure for IT and telecommunication services for R+D+i and the Information Society, an initiative that was also financed by the Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia and the EDRF.

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