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BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River. EDUSI Onda
Onda City Council

**Programa Operativo
Plurirregional de España**

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PASEO DEL RÍO SONELLA

Introduction

The City Council of Onda, in collaboration with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), has carried out a major operation to create a pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River. The main objectives of this initiative are to preserve and maintain the natural and cultural heritage of the area, to promote sport and healthy leisure habits, and to reduce the urban barriers and dangers of the Capamantos path, which will now become the green path of the Sonella river.

The operation has involved widening the pavements, installing benches and litter bins and creating a cycle path that will allow cyclists to travel safely and comfortably. In this way, a sustainable, accessible and safe space has been created for the use and enjoyment of all citizens.



The investment made to carry out this operation amounted to 503,501.80 euros, 50% of which was co-financed by FEDER. This funding has enabled Onda Town Council to carry out a project that would otherwise have been impossible due to budgetary constraints.

The pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River is an example of how public institutions can work together to improve the quality of life of citizens and protect the environment. This project will not only improve the mobility and safety of citizens, but will also contribute to the conservation of the local flora and fauna, as well as the cultural and historical heritage of the area.

Ultimately, this operation is an important step towards a more sustainable and healthy urban model that promotes active mobility and environmental protection. Onda City Council has demonstrated its

2	Mediterráneo	March 2022	https://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/comarcas/2022/03/18/onda-licita-973-000-paseo-verde-sonella-63979704.html
3	Castellón Información	March 2022	https://www.castelloninformacion.com/onda-licita-proyecto-urbanizacion-camino-capamantos-paseo-rio-sonella/
4	Mediterráneo	May 2022	https://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/comarcas/2022/05/13/durantia-construira-paseo-verde-rio-sonella-onda-934-000-euros-66047819.html
5	Onda Cero	June 2022	https://www.ondacero.es/emisoras/comunidad-valenciana/castellon/noticias/ayuntamiento-onda-transforma-camino-capamantos-paseo-verde_2022061662ab358fdd7c7a00010a33b7.html
6	Mediterráneo	June 2022	https://www.elperiodicomediterraneo.com/comarcas/2022/06/17/onda-empieza-obras-paseo-verde-sonella-67360763.html
7	La Plana al Día	October 2022	https://laplanaaldia.com/onda/noticias/202753/onda-avanza-en-la-construccion-del-paseo-verde-del-rio-sonella-que-finalizara-a-principios-de-a-o
8	Onda City Council	November 2022	https://www.onda.es/ond/news/new.php?id=1650
9	Castellón Plaza	November 2022	https://castellonplaza.com/onda-culminara-en-febrero-la-reurbanizacion-de-la-calle-capamantos
10	Onda City Council	March 2023	https://www.onda.es/ond/news/new.php?id=1822#:~:text=Los%20vecinos

- [%20de%20Onda%20ya,a%20una%20demanda%20ciudadana%20hist%C3%B3rica](#)
- 11 El Periódico de Aquí March 2023 <https://castellon.elperiodicodeaquí.com/epda-noticias/onda-responde-a-una-demanda-historica-de-los-vecinos-y-estrena-el-nuevo-paseo-verde-del-rio-sonella/310398>
- 12 Castellón Diario March 2023 <https://castellondiario.com/nuevo-paseo-verde-del-rio-sonella-en-onda-movilidad-sostenible-y-accesibilidad-mejorada/>
- 13 Cadena Ser March 2023 <https://cadenaser.com/comunitat-valenciana/2023/03/16/onda-abre-el-nuevo-paseo-verde-del-rio-sonella-radio-castellon/>

Street event with citizens

One of the most notable actions was the organisation of an event in the street, where a hot air balloon was set up and residents were able to climb aboard and see the huge scale of the work from above. This event was a success in terms of participation and allowed the people of Onda to see first-hand the details of the operation.



Merchandising

In addition, European co-financing was promoted through the distribution of merchandising items such as T-shirts, caps and stickers, with the aim of raising awareness of the contribution of ERDF funding to projects such as this.

Advertisement in the local press

Finally, an advertisement was placed in the local weekly magazine 'Arrels' so that residents would know what had been done. This publication is well known and read in Onda, so it was an effective way of reaching a large number of people.

In short, these actions have been fundamental in publicising the operation to create a pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River and in raising the population's awareness of the importance of developing sustainable and environmentally friendly projects. The involvement of citizens in this type of initiative is essential to guarantee its long-term success, and these actions have managed to encourage the participation and interest of the population.



Criterion 2. The action includes innovative elements

The project to create a route for pedestrians and cyclists along the Sonella River has incorporated several innovative elements to improve the safety and comfort of users in the area. These innovations have been fundamental in transforming the old Capamantos path into a modern and sustainable green route.

One of the most notable elements is the installation of LED lights along the entire route. These lights make it possible to illuminate the area at night, guaranteeing the safety of users. In addition, because

they are LED lights, energy consumption is much lower than with other types of lighting, which represents significant economic and environmental savings.

Another innovative element is the creation of zebra crossings for people with reduced mobility. These have special recesses in the pavement and appropriate signage to make it easier for people in wheelchairs or with other disabilities to cross the road. This is an important step forward in making the area more inclusive and accessible to all.



In addition, the sidewalks have been significantly widened in an area where the sidewalks were previously only 60 centimetres wide. These new wide sidewalks allow pedestrians to move more fluidly and safely, avoiding dangerous situations and improving comfort. A fence has also been installed to protect pedestrians from neighbouring properties, preventing possible accidents and guaranteeing the safety of users.

On the other hand, a cycle path has been created along the entire route. This path encourages the practice of sport and the use of bicycles as a sustainable means of transport, reducing pollution and improving air quality. In addition, the cycle path has special signage and adapted crossings to guarantee the safety of cyclists and peaceful coexistence with pedestrians.

Finally, shade and rest areas have been created at various points along the route. These areas have benches so that users can enjoy the natural environment and rest during their walk. These rest areas are essential for promoting healthy habits and enjoying the natural and cultural environment of the area.

Criterion 3. Appropriateness of the results obtained to the set objectives

With the creation of this pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River, the Onda Town Council had some very clear objectives, which have been achieved thanks to co-financing from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

One of the main objectives of this operation was to preserve and maintain the natural and cultural heritage of the area. The Sonella River is a very valuable natural environment and this project has

allowed it to be preserved, while at the same time improving access and enjoyment of the area for citizens and visitors. It has also created a shaded area for resting and enjoying the natural and cultural environment in all its splendour.

Another important objective was to promote sport and healthy leisure habits among citizens. The creation of a safe cycle lane has encouraged physical activity and sport, leading to improved health and a healthier lifestyle.

It has also reduced the impact of the urban barriers and dangers posed by the Capamantos road. Previously, access to the area was very difficult due to the lack of pavements and the narrowness of the road. Thanks to the creation of wide and safe footpaths, it is now possible to walk safely and enjoy the natural and cultural environment of the area without risk.

Finally, another important objective was the dissemination of the action among potential beneficiaries and the general public. Thanks to the implementation of dissemination actions such as the street event with citizens, merchandising, micro-videos and the advertisement in the local magazine, it has been possible for citizens to know and enjoy this new green and safe area. . The importance of European co-financing in the development of actions for the benefit of citizens has also been highlighted.

In conclusion, all the objectives set by the Onda Town Council for the creation of this pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River have been successfully achieved thanks to the co-financing provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Criterion 4. Contribution to solving a regional problem or weakness

The project to create a pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River has made a significant contribution to solving a regional problem or weakness in the field of tourism, mobility and quality of life for the citizens of the region.

Prior to this operation, the Capamantos road, which runs along the Sonella River, had serious shortcomings in terms of safety, comfort and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. Pavements were narrow and in some sections non-existent, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road and exposing them to dangerous collisions. There was also no cycle lane, making access and mobility difficult for cyclists. All this resulted in an unattractive public space for sports and leisure activities, which had a negative impact on the quality of life of citizens.

The creation of the pedestrian and cycle route has helped to effectively address these issues. The widening of pavements, the installation of accessible zebra crossings, the construction of a cycle path

and the installation of LED lighting have improved safety, accessibility and comfort for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, the creation of shade and rest areas, as well as the installation of benches and litter bins, have made Capamantos Street a much more attractive public space for sports and leisure activities, which has significantly improved the quality of life of the citizens of the region.

The creation of the pedestrian and cycle route has improved access to the park, making it easier and safer for tourists to enjoy Onda's surroundings. In addition, the installation of innovative elements such as LED lighting has made the Capamantos road even more attractive to the people of Onda.

Criterion 5. High coverage of the target population

The project to create a pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River has had a major impact on the local, regional and national population. First of all, it should be noted that this operation directly benefits the inhabitants of the town of Onda, who already number almost 26,000 people. Many of them use the trail to walk or play sports, significantly improving their quality of life and promoting healthy habits.

In addition, the operation has served to connect the neighborhoods of El Tosalet and Monteblanco with the center of the municipality, which has improved accessibility and mobility in the city. Before the creation of the itinerary, the residents of these neighborhoods had to travel long distances to access the city center, which represented a barrier to their participation in the social and economic life of the municipality. Thanks to the operation, the connection between these neighborhoods and the city center has been improved, which has promoted social cohesion and local economic development.

The creation of the pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River is an initiative that has been very well received by the local population, which has contributed to its success and positive impact on the city and the region. The possibility of walking and exercising in a natural environment and with the best safety conditions has been greatly appreciated by the people of Onda and visitors to the city.

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

This operation has been carried out with a comprehensive approach, taking into account the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

First of all, it is important to highlight that the operation has been designed to be accessible to all people, regardless of their physical abilities. Accessible zebra crossings have been installed and footpaths have

been widened to ensure that people with reduced mobility can move around comfortably. Safety fencing has also been installed to ensure the safety of pedestrians. These measures ensure that the project is inclusive and that everyone has an equal opportunity to enjoy the new ride.

Secondly, the project was designed with environmental sustainability in mind. Low-consumption LED lights were installed to reduce the impact on the environment, and trees were planted. In addition, the project has helped to reduce pollution by encouraging the use of bicycles as a means of transport. The cycle path allows citizens to move around in a sustainable way without emitting polluting gases. In this way, the project not only contributes to improving the quality of life of citizens, but also has a positive impact on the environment.

Thirdly, it is important to emphasise that the operation was socially responsible. Citizen participation was encouraged by organising street events with citizens, and the project was widely disseminated through various media, such as micro-videos with English subtitles or advertisements in the local magazine. This ensured that all citizens had access to information and could actively participate in the project.

In conclusion, the operation to create a pedestrian and cycle route along the Sonella River has been carried out with a comprehensive approach, taking into account the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability. Thanks to these measures, the project is inclusive, sustainable and beneficial to the whole of society. The implementation of these measures is essential to ensure that projects financed by the European Funds contribute to sustainable development and the well-being of all citizens.

Criterion 7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments

It should be noted that this operation has been closely coordinated with other public intervention policies and instruments at regional, national and European level. It has also helped to reinforce their positive aspects and to increase their impact on the population and the environment.

Firstly, this operation is in line with the European Union's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are based on promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions. In this sense, the project has contributed to several SDGs, such as SDG 3, "Health and well-being", by promoting physical activity and sport among the population; SDG 9, "Industry, innovation and infrastructure", by implementing innovative elements in the design and construction of the route; SDG 11, "Sustainable cities and communities", by promoting sustainable mobility and improving urban accessibility and connectivity; and SDG 13, "Climate action", by incorporating environmental sustainability criteria in the planning and execution of the project.

Secondly, this operation is also in line with the 2030 Agenda promoted by Onda City Council, whose main objective is to promote sustainable, equitable and inclusive development in the municipality. Finally, this operation has leveraged other regional, national and European funds. For example, the project received funding from the FEDER fund, which aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the regions of the European Union by promoting sustainable development and innovation in the territories. The creation of the pedestrian and cycle route has contributed to these objectives by improving connectivity and accessibility in the area and promoting sustainable mobility for the population.

