



### Una manera de Racer Europa



Adaptation and improvement of the existing services of the Alcoy Railway Station. EDUSI "ALCOIDEMA"

**Alcoy City Council** 

# Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

**Año 2022** 

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

#### BEST PRACTICES EDUSI "ALCOIDEMÀ" ALCOY CITY COUNCIL

### ADAPTATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE EXISTING SERVICES AT THE SURROUNDINGS OF ALCOY RAILWAY STATION

This Best Practice focuses on the adaptation and improvement of the existing urban services in the area of Alcoy railway station, at the junction of Tirant Lo Blanc and Primer de Maig streets, in the northern district of the town. The area was untidy and in a general state of disrepair, especially in the area comprising the railway station car park, with a high number of patches resulting from previous repairs to the services.

Access to the station was quite precarious, mainly through a car park, and the way in which vehicles entered and left the area had a clear negative effect on both vehicular and pedestrian traffic in Tirant Lo Blanc Street. This poor coexistence of uses was further aggravated after the construction of the new lane reserved for bicycles, which runs along the right-hand side of the road, along the mentioned street. Furthermore, the alignments of the curbs at Tirant Lo Blanc Street did not coincide on either side of the junction with Primer de Maig Street, with the pavement coming from the southwest being interrupted right at the car park.





The area before (left) and after the intervention (right)

The solution adopted consisted of a simple intervention that managed to unify the surroundings and give it an urban landscape character, while at the same time resolving the aforementioned functional problems. The project has also provided an opportunity to improve this area by offering a better showcase, as it is the entrance to the city from Valencia.

The action has had an eligible cost of 215,763.45 euros and has been 50% co-financed (107,881.72 euros) by the European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme 2014-2020 (ERDF). Its direct impact is remarkable in the nearly 130,000 users on average per year of the Alcoy-Xàtiva line and a general impact on the nearly 60,000 inhabitants of the city..

### THE ROLE OF THE ERDF HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY ADVERTISED AMONGST BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Firstly, the minimum regulatory obligations such as the temporary sign, the permanent plaque and the inclusion of the performance in the single portal have been fulfilled.





Site fence

Permanent plate

#### With advertising in media (newspapers, radio, digital media)

Following the completion of the works, the City Council of Alcoy undertook an advertising campaign in local and regional radio, press and online media.



Advertisings at three local radio stations



Local TV spot



Banner in digital local media

### Production of informative videos on the project and on its benefits once the work was completed.

A video has been produced in Spanish and Valencian highlighting the sources of funding and the benefits of the action for citizens, especially for groups such as people with mobility problems. These videos have been posted on the Alcoy City Council's social networks (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) and are permanently published on the municipal website. <u>Link to the video</u> on Alcoy City Council YouTube Channel





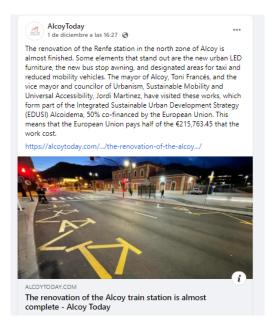
References to the public funding at the video

Video published on the city's YouTube channel

#### Through press releases, news and reports on the project

An exhaustive informative follow-up of the initiative has been carried out: project, approval, initiation, and implementation of the project, including in all this documentation clear references to the European financing through the ERDF Funds. Likewise, the notes have been sent to all the media, with wide and varied coverage by local and, in some cases, provincial and regional media.







### Las obras para adecuar y mejorar el entorno de la estación de Renfe empezarán a principios de junio

El plazo de ejecución es de tres meses y el objetivo es integrar urbanísticamente toda esta zona, así como resolver algunos problemas como el acceso precario a la estación

A principios del mes de junio está previsto que arranquen las obras de adecuación y mejora de los servicios existentes en el ámbito de la estación ferroviaria de Alcoy, en la confluencia entre la avenida Tirant Lo Blanc y la calle Primer de Maig. La

intervención forma parte de la Estrategia de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible Integrado (EDUSI-Alcoidemá) cofinanciada al 50% por la Unión Europea a través del Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España 2014-2020 y supondrá una inversión total de 215.763,45 euros.



### Finalizan las obras de mejora y reurbanización del entorno de la estación de Renfe, cofinanciadas con Fondos FEDER

Los trabajos han dotado a esta zona de un carácter urbano y ordenado, redefiniéndola principalmente para uso peatonal y haciéndola totalmente accesible

El Ayuntamiento de Alcoy ha recepcionado las obras de adecuación y mejora de los servicios existentes en el ámbito de la estación ferroviaria de Alcoy, en la confluencia entre la avenida Tirant Lo Blanc y la calle Primer de Maig.La intervención forma parte de la Estrategia de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible Integrado (EDUSI-Alcoidemà) cofinanciada al 50% por la Unión Europea a través del Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España 2014-2020 y ha supuesto una inversión total de 215.763,45

El objetivo de estos trabajos ha sido dotar al entorno de la estación de un carácter urbano y ordenado. También se ha solucionado el acceso peatonal a la estación, se han habilitado dos plazas de movilidad reducida, una zona de carga y descarga y otra para tavis



#### THE PROJECT INCLUDES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

As a result of this intervention, the area has been given a tidy, urban and fully accessible environment. Pedestrian access to the station has been improved and two parking spaces reserved for people with reduced mobility have been created, as well as a loading and unloading area and another for taxis. The works have also involved the renovation of the perimeter fencing around the tracks and platforms of the railway station.





New street furniture illuminated with LED lights and parking spaces for disabled people

The entire area around the station has been redeveloped, redefining it mainly for pedestrian use and incorporating new elements such as a bus stop shelter, bike racks, accessible benches illuminated with LED lights, new litter bins attached to lampposts so that they do not interfere with the accessible pedestrian route. With regard to landscaping, planting has been carried out with native vegetation in different areas and the tree surrounds have been replaced.

#### THE OUTCOME MEETS THE OBJECTIVES SET

In general, the project has consisted of adapting and extending the different services to the new requirements and a complete renovation of the asphalt surface of the street running in front of the railway station.

By aligning the kerbs and the layout of the traffic patterns of the different vehicles that run along Tirant Lo Blanc street, a smoother and safer flow of traffic has been achieved. On the other hand, accessibility has been optimised for all persons accessing the station, especially for those with reduced mobility.

On the other hand, the redevelopment has also helped to resolve the junction of the two sections of lane reserved for cyclists, which had recently been built and which, after this intervention, allow bicycles to circulate continuously and without obstacles.

#### THE PROJECT ADDRESSES A REGIONAL PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS

One of the main problems on which the EDUSI-Alcoidemà is acting and, specifically, the line in which this action is inserted, is the existence in Alcoy of a discontinuous urban network, whose areas are defined by the singularities of the environment and the orography. Thanks to these works, public infrastructures have been renovated and a contribution has been made to the continuity of the traffic route.

## THE ACTIONS APPLIES THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON DISCRIMINATOIN, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project has guaranteed and promoted equality between men and women, regardless of their age, especially with regard to promoting opportunities for their access to public services.

The project has also respected the accessibility regulations compulsory at both state and community level, as well as at local level, in line with the Accessibility Plan approved in 2016, which covers actions on public roads, public buildings, transport and communication. In this sense, the new urbanised public spaces have been designed in compliance with the basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for people with disabilities.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the refurbishment maintains and improves the route of the cycle path connecting the Alcoy greenway with that of the neighbouring town of Cocentaina along the northern edge of the city, with a total distance of 9 kilometres. This project was built with the

help of ERDF funds from the 2014-2020 operational programme, which aimed to promote sustainable urban mobility.

#### DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE POPULATION TOWARDS WHOM IT IS DIRECTED

The accesses and surroundings of the Alcoy railway station are a high-traffic area, as it is not only used by users of the railway line, but the station building is also home to a Red Cross hostel. Its eminently urban character and its position, opposite the bus station, make it a strategic area. Both stations are also served by interurban lines that connect the city with nearby towns and cities and with Alicante and Valencia.

The cycle path that connects the Alcoy Greenway with the Cocentaina Greenway along the northern edge of the city, which crosses the pavement in front of the station, has experienced a constant and high number of cyclists, who now have a safer and better defined route.

### SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION

Improving the surroundings of the railway station will complement what is possibly the largest public investment in the recent history of Alcoy in terms of transport. In September 2023, the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda announced the tender for 117 million euros, through ADIF, for the improvement of the Alcoy-Xàtiva-València railway line, whose works are expected to be completed in the first half of 2025. This will give a boost to the use of this transport infrastructure, which will now have renovated and accessible accesses to the station.

The Tirant lo Blanch street, which is the object of this action, links up with Gabriel Miró street, whose renovation is included in the Action Plan of the Urban Agenda 2030, a project financed with NextGenerationEU funds and for which Alcoy has been a pilot city. The project is included in Thematic Objective 2 (Avoiding urban sprawl and revitalising the existing city) and will consist of improving accessibility, replacing pavements with decontaminating pavements, redevelopment and urban regeneration, as well as improving energy efficiency and public lighting.





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