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# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Greenway in old railway track. EDUSI "Redondela 2020"

Redondela City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**

## GOOD PRACTICE 4 EDUSI "Redondela 2020" - REDONDELA TOWN COUNCIL

### ACTION: "Greenway in old railway track"

The present action consists of the transformation of the old railway track, in disuse since 2011, into a greenway with paths for pedestrian and cyclist use, stays for leisure and rest of the citizenship.

The railway track, 1,603 meters long, was located within the route between the Chapela fork and the border with Vigo in the old corridor that ended at the Urzáiz station. The current Greenway is a project to reuse railway infrastructure by creating a linear path that crosses natural landscapes and rural areas. This path is mainly used for walking, jogging, cycling or skating, providing a safe and pleasant space for the enjoyment of citizens.

This action falls under **the Thematic Objective (TO) 4** "Supporting the transition to a low carbon economy across the sector" Strategic Objective **(SO) 1** "Development of a friendly and sustainable city model and space for people, employment and social activities", **Operational Objective (OO) 001.1** "Improving mobility, accessibility and connectivity".

It is also framed within the **OT6** "Preserve and protect the environment and promote resource efficiency" **OO 002.2** New greenways, **OE 4** "Value to the environmental, historical and cultural heritage".

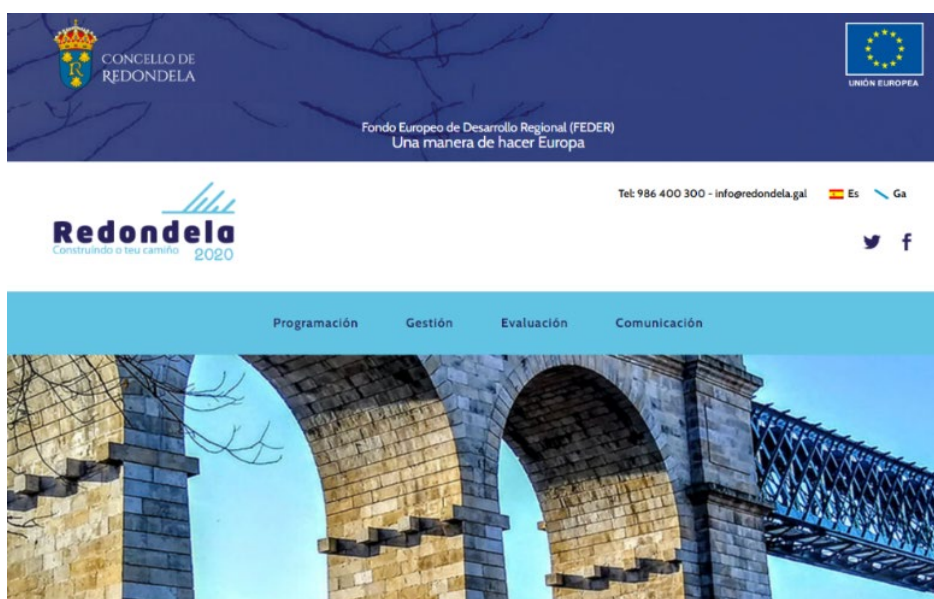
All framed within the **Line of action 9\_11\_20**: Reduction of pollution through the creation of new greenways and pedestrian walkways that put in value the environmental, architectural, historical and cultural heritage of Redondela, recovery, improvement and care of public space and natural areas.

The cost of the action is **714,488.4 €** of which 80% is financed by ERDF funds in total **595,407 €**.

### **1. FEDER'S ROLE IN THE ACTION HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY SPREADED AMONG BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

The communication carried out in the framework of this action has been done through the following elements:

- Website of the DUSI Strategy of the City Council of Redondela.



- Construction site sign and information plaque:



- Diffusion in press:

The action has been spread through written press and online press, replicating the news in both formats as Faro de Vigo usually does. In addition, in the case of Metropolitano.gal, the news has been replicated through its social network with the largest number of followers, Instagram (+12K). It should be noted that both media are the most relevant at local and provincial level, achieving an important diffusion of the news.

- Faro de Vigo: [See news here.](#)

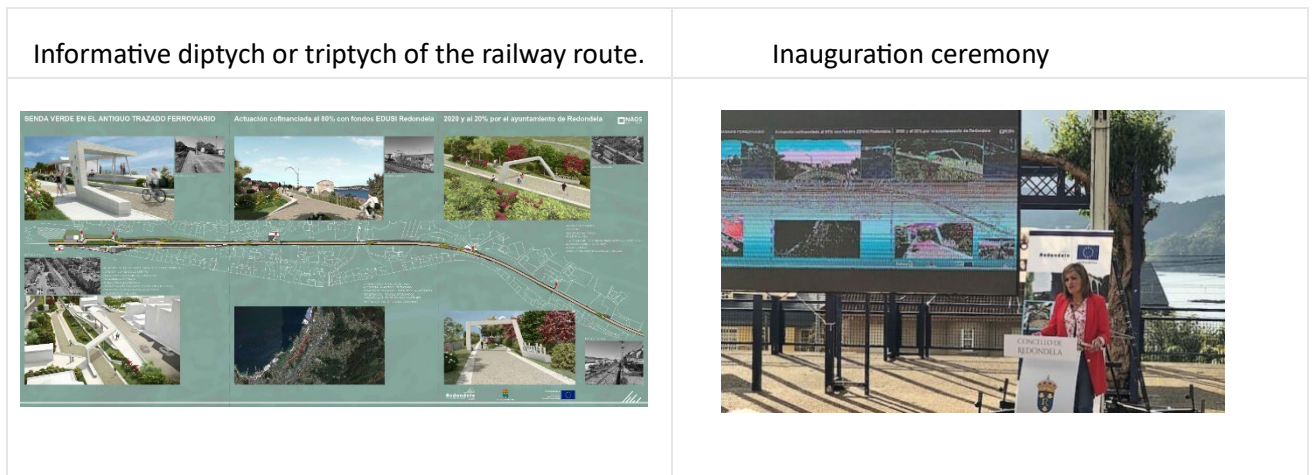
- Metropolitano.gal: [See news here.](#) y [Replicated in RRSS here.](#)



- Advertising videos: The action has also been launched through Youtube in a specific account for DUSI strategies of Redondela 2020.



This video explains what the adequacy of the railroad in Via Verde is, so that citizens can view it and understand what improvements will be made to improve their quality of life: [See video here.](#)



## 2. THE ACTION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS

The innovative nature of this action is the use of disused infrastructure for the incorporation of green spaces and rest areas that promote the health of the citizens of Redondela as well as improve their comfort in the city and encourage the use of environmentally friendly transport.

The creation of the greenway in the old railway route has a direct impact on the welfare of citizens as it serves as a connection between entire neighborhoods both pedestrian and bicycle, as well as having space for leisure and relaxation.

This action framed within the EDUSI Redondela 2020 responds directly to the values of the strategy, in which space for recreation of people, a city without architectural barriers and sustainable mobility. Among others.

The greenway is not only a benefit for the citizens of Redondela, but also becomes a tourist attraction for the area, since the walk along the greenway also serves as a tourist attraction as you can see the whole city from the highest area of the promenade.

Another innovative element within this action is the welfare of the citizens as an important and essential center of this action in which orbit a series of actions carried out by the City Council. This stretch of road is being used to improve the daily life of people and it is a fact that is rarely seen because the impact is very focused on the social and comfort of Redondela.

## 3. THE RESULTS OBTAINED ARE IN LINE WITH THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES.

The main objective of the action was to offer the citizens a renovated space where to rest, walk and have a leisure time, which was also universally accessible, favoring the inclusion of people with reduced mobility. All this framed in the reuse of disused municipal spaces whose new life was linked to the creation of new greenways.

That is why this action responds to three strategic objectives set out in the EDUSI Redondela 2020 Strategy.

First, it was established the SO 1: "To develop a friendly and sustainable city model that distributes over the territory space for people and social activities" and the executed operation of Greenway in old railway track responds specifically to that objective since the creation of a pedestrian route with rest areas and bike paths, using some old disused tracks, has turned the

area into a more friendly and sustainable place for the people of Redondela to have more space and to develop social activities.

Another of the Strategic Objectives that was established was SO 2, which corresponds to the environment section of the Implementation Plan. This objective states "Develop a city model that improves connectivity both for citizens with the administration, as well as facilitating connections with public and social facilities". Considering this objective of the EDUSI of Redondela, the implementation of the developed measure responds to the need to facilitate connections with public and social facilities and that the Greenway not only serves for recreational moments of citizenship, but is used by children, families, and seniors in the daily basis as a path to go to schools, jobs, or run daily errands. A very positive and safe impact for pedestrians who can make a car-free trip every day.

This action is also framed within Strategic Objective 4, since SO4 states: "Enhance the value of the environmental, historical and cultural heritage". And it is precisely the creation of a greenway in Redondela that adds value to the environmental heritage of the municipality, extolling the natural heritage of Redondela.

In conclusion, we find that the Greenway action in the old railway route responds to many of the objectives set out in the DUSI Strategy Redondela 2020 and it also contributes to the sense matrix of the Sustainable Urban Development Strategies, which is the improvement of the quality of life of cities.

#### **4. CONTRIBUTES TO THE RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS IN THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF EXECUTION.**

The problem from which this action starts are the train tracks that remained in disuse for several years and whose area was increasingly deteriorated, as well as the negative environmental impact it entailed as the possible contamination of soil or water due to chemicals from the railway infrastructure. In addition, this disuse of the tracks posed a danger to pedestrians who could walk on very unstable ground with the accidents that this would cause. All these problems added to the physical isolation suffered by the neighborhoods on both sides of the tracks and the lack of an investment plan for their reuse make this operation a huge need for Redondela.

The advantages obtained with the implementation of this measure have been evident in a short period of time. Citizens can now move smoothly and safely along this new green path that is also designed for the use of all people, including those with reduced mobility that not only find ramps that favor the slopes, but also find plenty of spaces for rest.

In addition, this action not only solves the problems caused by the disuse of the railway section, but also promotes the use of sustainable and environmentally friendly transport such as bicycles. This contributes to an improvement in the air of the municipality due to the zero emissions of a purely pedestrian route. Also contributing to this environmentally sustainable enclave is the use of new lighting and construction materials and the use of wood so that in hot weather the area does not raise the temperature of the municipality.

The project also encourages tourism because of the attractiveness of the Greenway for visitors. It is an elevated area, and we could consider some areas along its route as viewpoints. This fact attracts tourism, promotes local commerce and has a positive impact on attracting sustainable tourism in the municipality.

## **5. HIGH DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE TARGET POPULATION.**

The construction of the Greenway over the old railway crossing is positioned as one of the most comprehensive actions carried out within the framework of the DUSI Redondela 2020 Strategy. This large-scale project brings significant benefits to both local residents and visitors to the municipality, making it a real asset for the community. That is why this action has a high degree of coverage, covering the 29,194 inhabitants of the municipality and, [according to the Redondela Tourist Office, adding pilgrims, tourists, visitors and residents, 7,613 people.](#)

This initiative does not discriminate against any sector of the population but is conceived as an inclusive space that adapts to the needs and preferences of a wide range of people. From the youngest to the oldest, from committed sportsmen to lovers of relaxed walks, from residents who use it as a daily route to Chapela to those with reduced mobility or families with baby strollers, the Greenway is presented as a versatile resource that is within everyone's reach. In other words, 100% of the population of Redondela can benefit from this action.

In addition to its accessibility and versatility, the Greenway has proven to be an economic engine for local commerce. The increased influx of people along this route means a constant flow of visitors to nearby stores and businesses. This directly benefits local commerce, strengthening the local economy and contributing to the prosperity of the community.

In short, the construction of the Greenway represents an action that highlights the values of inclusion, accessibility and economic development that are fundamental for an active and sustainable community. The DUSI Redondela 2020 Strategy, through this initiative, demonstrates its commitment to the welfare of the population and the creation of spaces that encourage interaction and enjoyment of all citizens. This Greenway is not only a physical path, but a symbol of unity and progress in Redondela.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION, AS WELL AS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

This action affects the criterion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination since, in addition to unifying neighborhoods that could be somewhat isolated due to the train tracks, it promotes social relations in a free space for citizens. It influences accessibility by ensuring universal access for all people, including those with reduced mobility, by placing the promenade route on a single level or adapting ramps for those areas that are on a slope.

The creation of public spaces for free use is essential for the development and stability of a citizenry. These spaces can be used by all people and favor the confluence of neighbors with diverse lives and economies, which favors social integration.

With respect to the criteria of social responsibility and environmental sustainability, the creation of a greenway on an old disused railway line favors the practice of carbon-neutral activities and sustainable travel, whether on foot or by bicycle. It also encourages community participation, awareness, and education by promoting awareness of the importance of reusing public infrastructure for new uses that benefit the lives of the population.

Overall, the creation of a pedestrian greenway from disused railroad tracks is an excellent way to revitalize the space, promote citizen participation and local tourism, and provide the community with an attractive and healthy environment for walking, biking and enjoying the sights of Redondela.

## **7. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION.**

Within the EDUSI Redondela 2020 itself there are synergies between the actions favoring the major frameworks in which the municipality is framed, these are: Environment, Mobility, Energy efficiency and historical heritage and culture.

That is why we find the pedestrianization of Pontearreas Square as an action that finds similarities to the greenway in the old railway route. That is why both encourage the creation of pedestrianized areas for transit, leisure, and rest of people and also both contribute to the decarbonization of the center of Redondela. On the one hand, in the case of Pontearreas, traffic is redirected to create a pedestrianized area. On the other hand, in the case of the greenway, it reuses infrastructures that can cause pollution due to disuse and abandonment.

In addition to being committed to the environment, Redondela is committed to sustainable mobility. This fact is reflected in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of the Redondela City Council (PMUS), which includes a set of actions aimed at the implementation of more sustainable forms of travel (walking, cycling, public transport ...). This environmental policy fits with the creation of a Greenway that runs 4 kilometers of cycling path, therefore, both produce a very positive synergy for the municipality.

Inciding more on the social part that benefits the performance of Greenway in Redondela we find an important link with the "Local Plan for Children and Adolescents" that has been carried out until 2021 and which embodied the importance of the creation and design of safe spaces care and adapted to enable the personal autonomy of children, adolescents, and families of Redondela and its parishes. In addition to the intention in this plan to make a Redondela equal and accessible to all, this plan finds a perfect fit in the Greenway of Redondela that with its creation allows to meet several of the objectives of this plan as it houses leisure spaces for children in a completely pedestrianized area, becoming the safe space that was collected as an objective in the plan mentioned above.

In conclusion, a complete action that benefits citizens, the environment and reuses unused public spaces to give them a new life.

