



# Una manera de lacer Europa

Alfonso X El Sabio Square signage and accesibility improvement

**BUENAS PRÁCTICAS** 

**Actuaciones** Cofinanciadas

**Almansa City Council** 

# Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

Año 2022

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

#### GOOD PRACTICE: "ALFONSO X EL SABIO" SQUARE SIGNAGE AND ACCESIBILITY IMPROVEMENT"

#### ALMANSA TOWN HALL (ALBACETE)

This action promoted by the Almansa City Council has consisted of the last section of "Rambla de la Mancha" improvement, conditioning and urbanization.

These improvement and conditioning works on the Rambla de la Mancha have improved "Fuente del León" surroundings accessibility, specifically "Rambla de la Mancha" and "Alfonso X el Sabio" square final stretch in Almansa, favoring accessibility and prioritizing pedestrians, especially in the most central areas of municipality, eliminating architectural barriers and providing a single road.

In addition to this objective, we wanted to provide a solution to the problems in area's sanitation network, including in this project the replacement of connections to the buildings in the affected area, with installation of non-return valves and new scuppers for water collection in order to solve the related problems for residents.

Thus, the work has been carried out at the following points: final section of "Rambla de la Mancha" and "Alfonso X El Sabio" square.

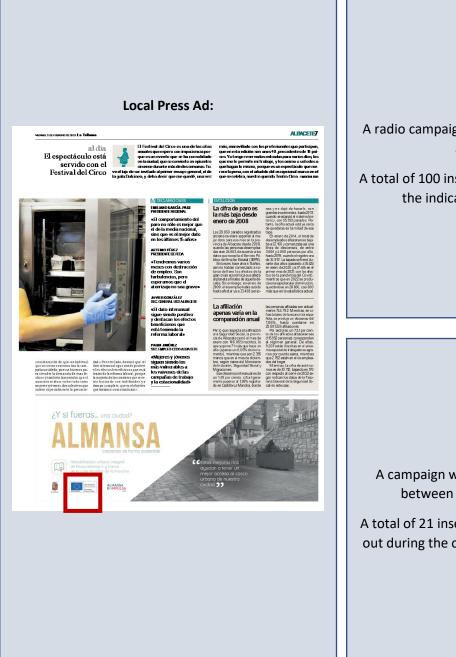
Total action cost has been 118,451 euros, of which 80% has been co-financed by the European Union thanks to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 94,760 euros.



1. Role of FEDER in this action has been appropriately disseminated among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and general public.

Actions to communicate this operation have been:





#### **Regional radio spots:**

A radio campaign was carried out between January 30 and February 26, 2023.

A total of 100 insertions were made distributed over all the indicated days in different time slots.

#### **Regional TV Ad**

A campaign was carried out on regional television between February 20 and March 5, 2023.

A total of 21 insertions of 10 seconds each were carried out during the contracted days, in different time slots.

#### 2. Action incorporates innovative elements

Action presented here incorporates innovative elements in its design and approach in order to improve accessibility of one of the city's main roads. Inclusion and universal design have been key aspects that have facilitated the development and regeneration of an urban environment that guarantees that all citizens can move around safely and comfortably.

In this sense, the entire action has placed the central focus on the pedestrian well-being. Design focused on citizens well-being has meant adopting an approach that takes into account their needs and preferences.

#### 3. Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives:

DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy included among its objective urban environment improvement and public space revitalization. In line with this objective, line of action A6 proposed a Plan for integrated environmental improvement of collective urban spaces.

Development of action presented here has made it possible to contribute to the achievement of the stated objectives and in fact has made it possible to generate a wide range of benefits. In this sense, the action presented here has managed to improve the accessibility of "Fuente de León" surroundings, specifically "Rambla de la Mancha" final stretch and "Alfonso X el Sabio" square. Therefore, the objective of creating a friendlier Almansa has been achieved, favoring accessibility and prioritizing pedestrians, especially in most central areas of municipality, eliminating architectural barriers and providing a single road.

This action has also contributed to solving the problems in area's sanitation network, through the replacement of all connections to the buildings in the affected area, with the installation of non-return valves and new scuppers for waters collection.

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

Since DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy design phase, a series of clear challenges were outlined that had to be addressed in the following years. One of the challenges was to reduce urban framework deficiencies in terms of accessibility.

In this sense, DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy projected that the urban quality and opportunities offered by the city should be guaranteed thanks to city transformation into a friendly and healthy environment for both citizens and companies. Therefore, a clear challenge was to improve accessibility in public spaces.

Likewise, from the design of the DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy, a series of problems and needs related to the urban environment were identified. One of the problems was directly related to city accessibility. Almansa has gone through several expansive periods throughout the 20th century, in which it has been built with very little planning, giving rise to very dense residential areas, with narrow and irregular streets, and with little surface area for facilities or green areas. Although road traffic is not very intense in these areas, some of them have accessibility deficiencies.

A series of positive aspects of the city were also detected that needed to be taken into account during the preparation of DUSI Strategy and that have positively conditioned the action presented here. Almansa is a healthy city where most of trips are made on foot; therefore, the action carried out in the last section of "Rambla de la Mancha" and "Alfonso X El Sabio" square has had a very positive impact because a high number of people travel on foot along this main road.

#### 5. Target population high coverage:

This action was tremendously necessary because "Rambla de la Mancha" is a fundamental artery. The urban environment has been improved, which has had an impact on the well-being of the entire Almansa population, around 24,224 people, as well as people residing in the intervention area. It is a main artery that neighbors pass through every day. In short, it has been an ambitious and important project that has managed to beautify the environment and facilitate mobility on foot for many people.

### 6. Consideration of equal opportunities and non discrimination horizontal criteria, as well as social responsability and environmental sustainability.

This action clearly takes into consideration horizontal criteria such as inclusion and equity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, social responsibility and, of course, environmental sustainability.

Regarding equal opportunities and non-discrimination criteria, this action has been designed to promote equality between men and women, as well as to avoid any type of discrimination, whether based on sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation. Improvements in accessibility such as those made by this action help to improve peope with disabilities life quality by allowing them to access essential services such as public buildings, health centers, parks, shops or restaurants.

Regarding social responsibility criterion, Almansa City Council has materialized its commitment to the citizens of Almansa by addressing basic and fundamental needs such as improving accessibility or changing street furniture in two of its most central and active streets.

Finally, in terms of environmental sustainability, this action has contributed to solving the existing problems in the area's sanitation network. In general terms, the principle of sustainable development has been respected and the conservation, protection and improvement of urban environment quality has been promoted.

#### 7. Action has synergies with other public intervention policies and instruments

This action presents important synergies with Almansa City Neighborhood Plan, which is aimed at improving the urban environment in its environmental, landscape and urban dimension. Likewise, this action is part of Plan for collective comprehensive environmental improvement included in DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy.

More broadly, in recent years, Almansa City Council has carried out different actions to improve urban environment that may have synergies with this action, such as improving accessibility and changing street furniture on Campo and Federico García Lorca.







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