



Una manera de lacer Europa

A concrete and formwork infrastructure on the channel de La Veguilla. EDUSI "Valdepeñas ON"

BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Valdepeñas City Council

Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

GOOD PRACTICE: CONSTRUCTION ON THE "CANAL DE LA VEGUILLA" IN VALDEPEÑAS, IN THE AREA BETWEEN C/ SEIS DE JUNIO AND C/ NORTE, OF A CONCRETE AND FORMWORK INFRASTRUCTURE, TO PREVENT FLOODING THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE AREA.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to identify and characterise a "Good Practice" in terms of communication related to operations financed by the European Union supported by the "Valdepeñas On" Strategy for Integrated Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD).

The communication is made in relation to the commitment made by the Town Council of Valdepeñas, as a "Light Intermediate Body" [*Organismo Intermedio Ligero*] in the "Urban Axis" of the Multiregional Operational Programme for Spain 2014-2020 (POPE), to inform the Managing Authority of an action or experience which, because of its content, innovative nature or possible extension to other organisations or Town Councils managing Integrated Sustainable Urban Development (ISUD) Strategies, might constitute "Good Practices".

The action forms part of the operation called "Works to recover the urban public space through the covering and refurbishment of the structure of the 'La Veguilla' channel (sections between calle Seis de Junio and calle Norte), as part of the Line of Action 4, with the total amount for the operation being \notin 1,420,000.00. The support provided by the ERDF is \notin 1,136,000.00, which is 80% of the total.

The operation has had an impact in the Valdepeñas area of action, and more specifically in the town's centre-west area in the Cristo and Fátima districts.

The stream bed known as "La Veguilla" runs through the centre of Valdepeñas in an eastwest direction, and has witnessed tragic episodes of flooding in the past, which is why different Municipal Corporations have repaired some of the sections forming the channel along which the stream runs. The operation referred to in this document is a continuation of the refurbishment works on the channel structure, more specifically by widening it, channelling it correctly, covering it and developing the whole area of action to create two boulevard spaces. This has been carried out for two reasons: firstly, because of the highly deficient state of repair of the sections requiring refurbishment, which represented a clear hazard because of the infrastructure's function in preventing flooding, and secondly because of the need to integrate into the town's urban fabric a space that had been "left out" for a number of reasons (deterioration in the adjacent traffic routes; lack of economic activity; an outdated and somewhat "grey" environmental appearance compared to the rejuvenated image of the other sections; etc.). Furthermore, these works to refurbish the structure and cover the channel were the starting point for the actions to restructure and complete the urban fabric in the whole scope of action (actions included in line 8 of the ISUD).

In accordance with the above, and after an overall reassessment of the work, the principal actions carried out in line 7 were as follows: removal of all the urban furniture and lighting elements; demolition of the old water course (walls, floor slab, foundations, etc.) to redefine their height, allowing the water course to be covered at the same height as the roadways and adjacent pavements; execution of the structure of the new channel (new foundations, retaining walls and floor slab, etc.); execution of the platform to cover the channel and placement of new garden features.

As indicated, the actions were: covering of the channel, creation of green areas, provision of furniture and improved road surface, among others.



THE CRITERIA FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF THE GOOD PRACTICE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE OPERATION WAS DISSEMINATED AMONG THE BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There was broad dissemination of the operation called "Works to recover the urban public space through the covering and refurbishment of the structure of the 'La Veguilla' channel (sections between calle Seis de Junio until the end of the avenue Primero de Julio in a westerly direction)", from the planning stage through to execution, with dissemination intended in particular for the people and organisations benefiting from the action.

In terms of **regulatory communication**, the Valdepeñas Town Council website and the Public Sector Contracting Platform published the invitation to tender announcements and the terms and conditions (dated 5 September 2018), the award announcements (dated 4 September 2018) and the announcements of formalisation of the contract (dated 8 January 2019), specifying that the contract dossier forms part of the "Valdepeñas ON" ISUD and that it is 80% co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), as part of the Multiregional Operational Programme for Spain (2014-2020).

A notice was also displayed in Avenida Primero de Julio in Valdepeñas explaining the European Union co-financing of the operation through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and featuring the slogan "Una manera de hacer Europa" [A way to make Europe], to ensure it was seen by all members of the public.



Photo of the work notice.



Photo of the Information Point.



Photo of the Information Point with definitive plaque.

The operation was also publicised on the Valdepeñas Town Council website, at the following link: <u>http://edusi.valdepenas.es/</u>, accessed by clicking on "Programación/ objetivo temático 6" [Programmes/ thematic objective 6].

As regards the **additional communication**, the following were carried out:

- An **explanatory video** was made to inform the general public of the operation, and also two **adverts**. These videos can be viewed at <u>http://edusi.valdepenas.es/</u>, under the section "Comunicación/ Línea de actuación 7" [Communication/ Line of action 7]. <u>Link to the video</u>, <u>Link to the advert</u>



- Advertisements were also published in the **local and provincial press** with details of the different actions undertaken in the operation:



- Advertisements were published in the **national** and Castilla-La Mancha **regional press** to publicise the action nationwide and in the Castilla-La Mancha region.

Link to the News in El Mundo

Link to the news in Objetivo Castilla La Mancha.



2. THE OPERATION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.

Possibly the most innovative element of the operation is the fact that it has succeeded in transforming an urban space with a natural stream flowing through it, which was in a very precarious state, into a totally different area, in which the stream is no longer visible because it has been covered with a newly-created broad avenue. In other words, the innovation is found precisely in the fact that the channel has been covered (with the new channel also including probes that give information on the situation of the water course, thereby preventing the flooding that has occurred in the past) and the accompanying features: stream no longer visible and creation of an area of boulevards with spacious pavements for the development of businesses and the rest and relaxation of the inhabitants of Valdepeñas and visitors to the town.

In addition, unlike other sections of the "La Veguilla" channel in which the pedestrian area is in the centre, in this case the broad boulevards are at the sides, allowing the traffic to flow more freely along the newly-created central lanes.

3. THE RESULTS OBTAINED MEET THE OBJECTIVES SET

The objectives set for the operation were the following:

- To improve the urban surroundings in terms of environment, landscaping and urban planning, through the impact it has on the well-being of the population, the promotion of social and territorial cohesion and competitiveness, which corresponds to a priority area of sustainable urban development.

- To mitigate the problems of urban and environmental deterioration and stimulate new development dynamics.

- To improve the condition of the town's roads and pavements, recovering them for public use in an environmentally-friendly manner.

- Specifically, to execute the structure of the channel itself, by refurbishing/repositioning the existing structure and covering it. The purpose here was twofold: to prevent flooding and to refurbish completely a space that had fallen into considerable disrepair.

These objectives have been met, given that the refurbishment of the structure and the covering of the channel, which was in a state of serious disrepair and at risk of collapse, has integrated this area of "La Veguilla" into the fabric of the town centre, reviving an area that was practically devoid of life until the works were completed. There is no doubt that the town has been revitalised by this integration and improved not only in the scope of action but also in the most immediate urban surroundings as a whole. Furthermore, this regeneration will have an economic impact, meaning that many premises that are currently inactive will come onto the real estate market, will house new businesses, etc. (in fact, some business premises, specifically restaurants and bars, have already clearly benefited from the operation). And, in short, this change in the area's urban appearance, in addition to the economic benefits, and also thanks to them, will lead to social regeneration of the area and its immediate surroundings (something that can already be seen).

4. CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING A REGIONAL PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS

As stated, this operation has removed, from both the material and visual perspectives, the physical barrier posed by the "La Veguilla" channel. The refurbishment of the channel to prevent possible flooding has created a space that is completely covered with a concrete platform at the same height as the current roadways and pavements. The operation has transformed the whole scope of action in terms of urban planning: creation of roadways for vehicle traffic in the centre of the avenue; construction of side boulevards; more parking spaces; more garden areas, etc. In summary, the covering of the channel has radically transformed the scope of action, solving the problem posed by the physical barrier of said channel as previously configured, and the problems of economic, social and environmental impoverishment associated with it.

Before: "La Veguilla" channel





After: Covered channel of "La Veguilla"

Before: "La Veguilla" channel





After: Visual appearance of the area above the covered channel of "La Veguilla".

5. HIGH DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE POPULATION FOR WHOM IT IS INTENDED

The project comprises a refurbished area of 2.5 hectares, with the degree of coverage impacting the whole of the town's population, given that the section of the "La Veguilla" channel runs below the Avenida Primero de Julio, which is the town's east-west axis and an area connecting the industrial areas to the west (via the ring road of the CM-412 highway) with the centre and other retail and leisure areas in the town. The degree of coverage is thus 100% of the population of Valdepeñas (30,071 inhabitants, according to the INE census of 01/01/22) and, in particular, the 5,000 people in the area directly affected by the project.

In addition, bearing in mind that Valdepeñas is, in many aspects, a point of reference for the inhabitants of other towns and villages in the Campo de Montiel region and other nearby localities, the people living in these places who visit Valdepeñas are also benefited by the operation.

6. HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, NON-DISCRIMINATION, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

The operation carried out guarantees equal treatment and opportunities between persons, with no discrimination of any type, and is especially favourable for those with some degree of disability. The covering of the "La Veguilla" channel has removed the physical barrier posed by its former layout, and full mobility is henceforth guaranteed for all persons. Comfortable and accessible itineraries have been created for everyone to use, and the result is particularly positive for anyone with reduced mobility.

As stated in the previous points, the actions of which the operation is comprised guarantee full compliance with the criterion of sustainable development and promotion of better environmental quality. The creation of the wide boulevards allows greater mobility for pedestrians and, consequently, a better quality of life for the public that benefits from it. In addition, the installation of high energy-efficient lighting points has reduced contaminating emissions.

This action, and in particular the incorporation of level sensors within the channelled area, makes it easier to monitor the water flow running along this part of the water course.

7. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR PUBLIC POLICY INSTRUMENTS

The action forms part of the storms Plan for the town of Valdepeñas, which is designed to eliminate the town's shortcomings when faced with flood waters in the different stream beds that run through it, providing for channels of sufficient diameter to absorb the predicted flow of water.

The roadway that runs above the channel forms part of the Central Action Area, to develop the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS) in Valdepeñas, and is designed to restore the quality of the spaces in the town's different areas, with a new organisation of access points for motor vehicles and a reduction in the traffic passing through this part of the town. The action is part of a strategy to expand the existing pedestrian spaces by creating a pleasant area that fosters retail, cultural, leisure and services activity, converting this area into a meeting point and promoting other alternative modes of transport, fundamentally walking and cycling.

The action also forms part of the Valdepeñas accessibility plan, promoting a more egalitarian town for all its inhabitants.

Carrying out this operation will suppose a clear synergy that will have a very positive impact on the urban and environmental improvement of Valdepeñas, and will attract investment and business projects. There is no doubt that it will lead to an improvement in the wealth and well-being of the inhabitants of Valdepeñas.





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