

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Reconstruction of the Armas Square, eliminating the underground car park, pedestrianising it, with perimeter planting of trees and new equipment.

Ferrol City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**



**RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ARMAS SQUARE, ELIMINATING THE UNDERGROUND CAR PARK, PEDESTRIANISING IT, WITH PERIMETER PLANTING OF TREES AND NEW EQUIPMENT.**



The Armas square, located in front of the Ferrol City Hall building, is the easternmost of the two symmetrically located squares inside the historic district of A Magdalena. At the other end, towards the west, is the Amboage square. This neighbourhood forms the historic and urban centre of the city of Ferrol.

The new Armas square returns to its original spirit, as an open and accessible public space. To this end, the commercial premises and the existing underground car park facing Real street were removed. A continuous plane was created following the lines of the streets that make up the square, rehabilitating a total surface area of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the surface was re-paved, the paving of the adjacent streets was repaired and ambient lighting was installed to illuminate the entire space. Finally, a green space was created, with the incorporation of large perimeter trees and benches for passers-by to rest.

The eligible cost of this operation is 1,349,940 euros, with ERDF support of 1,079,952 euros and an impact of around 20,000 additional visits per year.



This is considered good practice because:

**The role of the ERDF in the action has been adequately disseminated to beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.**

All the regulatory obligations regarding communication, publicity and visibility of ERDF support have been met, both in the preparation of all the administrative documentation for the action and in the placement of the **construction site sign** and **permanent plaque**.

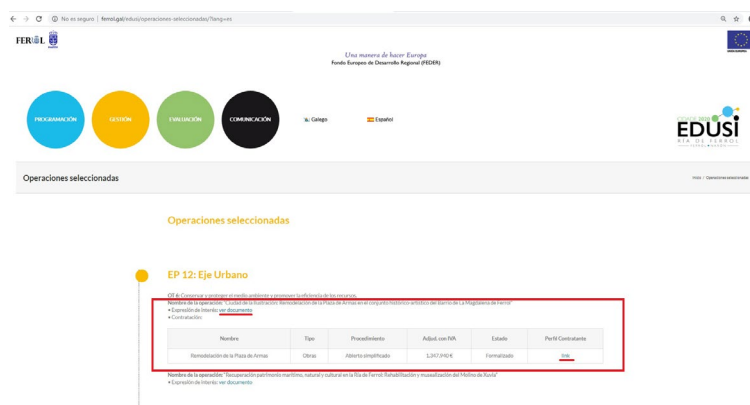


Construction site sign



Permanent plaque

Likewise, the EDUSI "Ría de Ferrol, Cidade 2020" has its **own website**, where, in addition to disseminating the role played by the ERDF and its cohesion policy, information is provided on the actions carried out within the framework of this strategy.



[www.ferrol.gal/edusi/operacions-seleccionadas/](http://www.ferrol.gal/edusi/operacions-seleccionadas/)

During the execution of the work, **an information tarpaulin** about the ERDF and the project was placed on one of the sides of the square, accompanied by a series of characteristic images of the historic A Magdalena neighbourhood.



Tarpaulin





The action has been publicised among the public through various media, both through the regular publication of **news** items and the broadcasting of **radio spots** and the insertion of banners in the **written and digital press**.



URBANISMO. El Ayuntamiento de Ferrol retirará este miércoles el perímetro de la plaza de Armas, con el objetivo de abrir al público casi en su totalidad. Ya este martes culminaban los trabajos de compactado alrededor de los tilos llegados de Holanda. Y según indican fuentes municipales, "únicamente quedaría pechada una parte situada ao pé do concello". Así quedaría pensada la colocación de varias piezas de granito. En la zona existen instalaciones eléctricas que han complicado el final de la obra. La reforma finalizaría así tras el parón causado durante la pandemia del coronavirus.

Este proyecto fue lanzado por el gobierno de Ferrol en Común, con María Fernández Lemos como concejala de Urbanismo. Y ha continuado con Ángel Mato como alcalde socialista. Implica tanto la creación de una zona verde en el centro de la ciudad como el inicio de la peatonalización del barrio de A Magdalena. Y su reapertura supone un respiro para los ferrolenses en tiempos de confinamiento.

Según recuerdan desde el actual gobierno local, "a remodelación da praza de Armas é unha operación cofinanciada polo Fondo Europeo de Desenvolvemento Regional (Feder) no marco do Programa Operativo Pluri-Regional de España Feder 2014-2020, ao abeiro da Estrategia de Desenvolvemento Urbano Sostible e Integrado (Edusi)". P.H.

[www.elcorreogallego.es](http://www.elcorreogallego.es)

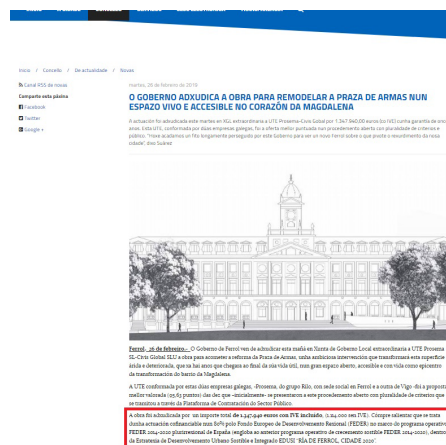


La plaza de Armas de Ferrol estará lista para su apertura al público en los próximos días. Está previsto que estos días se lleven a cabo trabajos para compactar la tierra alrededor de los tilos, unas labores que quedarán pendientes debido a la necesidad de que el suelo asentara de forma natural antes de poder acometerlos. Una vez finalizados, el nuevo espacio público estará en condiciones para su apertura, por lo que, de no surgir ningún imprevisto, el vallado que recorre el perímetro podría retirarse este miércoles.

Únicamente quedaría cerrada una pequeña parte situada al pie del pazo municipal y próxima a la calle Rubalcava. En ese punto quedan pendientes de colocar varias piezas de granito que están siendo preparadas de forma específica. Debido a la complejidad del final de esa pendiente, fue necesario crear elementos a medida, con los perfiles adecuados para salvar el desnivel de manera suave. Además, en esa área existen instalaciones eléctricas, que aumentaron la complicación del acabado definitivo. Fue necesario esperar la que estuvieran asentadas las losetas de la explanada ante el Ayuntamiento y de la acera que baja pegada al edificio por Rubalcava para verificar las dimensiones exactas y los ángulos de estas piezas que se espera que lleguen en los próximos días para que puedan ser colocadas, con el que la plaza quedaría definitivamente finalizada.

La remodelación de la plaza de Armas es una operación cofinanciada por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (Feder) en el marco del Programa Operativo Pluri-Regional de España Feder 2014-2020 al amparo de la Estrategia de Desarrollo Urbano Sostenible e Integrado (Edusi) "Ría de Ferrol, Ciudad 2020".

[www.nhdiario.es](http://www.nhdiario.es)

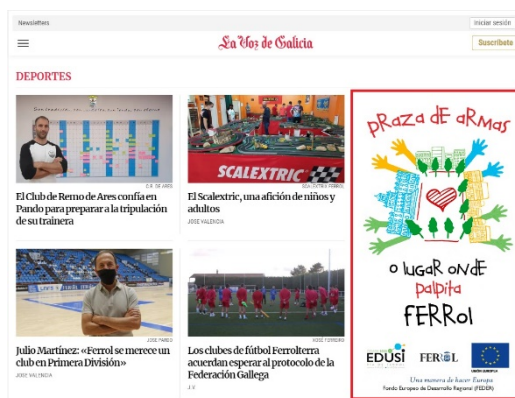


[www.ferrol.gal](http://www.ferrol.gal)

- The radio spots were broadcast on national (Cadena Ser and Cope) and regional (Radio Voz) stations, with a total of 75 insertions during one week:

[https://www.ferrol.gal/edusi/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CU%C3%91A-FEDER\\_20s.mp3](https://www.ferrol.gal/edusi/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CU%C3%91A-FEDER_20s.mp3)

- The insertion of advertisements in regional and local written press (La Voz de Galicia and Diario de Ferrol) and digital press (La Voz de Galicia, Ferrol360 and Galicia Ártabra):



[www.lavozdegalicia.es](http://www.lavozdegalicia.es)

Animated banner link:

<https://www.ferrol.gal/edusi/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Banner-dixital.gi>

Diario de Ferrol

In addition to these communication actions, a video was made, reflecting the importance of this new space for the city, and specifically for the neighbourhood of A Magdalena, emphasising that this action was possible thanks to the support provided by the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund. It was distributed through social networks.



LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yq-zKa3Sd0c>



[www.es-la.facebook.com/EdusiRia/](http://www.es-la.facebook.com/EdusiRia/)

On 13 May 2020, the opening ceremony of the Armas square was held, which meant that the new space was made available to the public and converted into a friendly and welcoming place to stay.



### The action incorporates innovative elements

One of its main innovative elements was the creation of an open and continuous plane that facilitates and provokes total urban communication with all the surrounding streets (María to the north, Real to the south and Rubalcava and Terra to the east and west respectively). It is also noteworthy that more than half of the surface of the square is covered with a unique terrazzo paving in Spain, successfully used in public spaces in other countries. It is a conglomerate that includes aggregates and a natural permeable stabiliser, which gives it a high drainage capacity and prevents it from overheating in the sun. The square is also provided with a green space, with the incorporation of 21 fast-growing trees, such as the lime trees, which are real building elements of the square, as they delimit the space, providing shade and coolness in summer and improving the acoustics of the place.





In order to contribute to the promotion of chess, a practice that for some years now has been installed in several of the municipality's schools, a chess board was installed on the granite paving on the upper right-hand side of the square in front of the town hall building. This is the first large-scale chessboard to be permanently installed in the town.

Another innovative element is that the project for the reconstruction of the Armas square was the result of an Ideas Competition, through an agreement between the Official Association of Architects of Galicia and the City Council of Ferrol in 2016 "Competition of projects at the level of preliminary projects for the Remodelling of the Armas square of the City Council of Ferrol".

Finally, it is necessary to highlight the incorporation along the square of various elements that remind us of a part of the history of Ferrol, and in particular, the origins of the neighbourhood of A Magdalena. An example of this is the names of five prominent people responsible for the planning and construction of the Ferrol of the Enlightenment, engraved on the granite slabs that make up the new pavement between the ground surface and Real street.

#### **Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives.**

The reconstruction of the Armas square has meant a before and after for the A Magdalena neighbourhood (declared a BIC - Asset of Cultural Interest). The main objective was to recover an emblematic public space in Ferrol that was in a high state of degradation, and turn it into a place for citizens to stay and meet, a more accessible, efficient and environmentally friendly place, which would have an impact on the cultural, economic and social development of the city centre.

The results obtained are therefore in line with the objectives set. A public space has been recovered in which to do physical exercise, take a walk with family and friends, rest in the peaceful shade of the lime trees after doing business at the town hall or shopping in the neighbourhood, or even play a game of chess. In addition, urban environmental quality has been improved, with the creation of a new green space in the city centre and the reduction of light pollution through the installation of LED-type luminaires, with a much lower energy consumption than the previously existing traditional luminaires, and with a controlled and adjustable lighting level that allows it to be adjusted to the different needs of use that may occur in the square. Not forgetting that the reconstruction of the Plaza de Armas has meant a further step forward in the improvement of the urban and historical heritage of the City of Enlightenment, in its quest to opt for the UNESCO World Heritage Candidacy.



## **Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the territorial scope of implementation**



The old Armas square was a space with shortcomings in terms of construction and accessibility, with narrow pavements, buildings (underground car park and commercial premises) of no or very low construction and architectural quality, and with serious structural problems in the floor slab that made up the square's floor and non-compliance with current technical regulations that prevented crowds of people on it, which led to the social degradation of the neighbourhood.

The reconstruction brought to life a part of the urban and historical heritage of the city centre, which was very degraded and in disuse. The demolition of the underground car park and the commercial premises led to the creation of a multifunctional space, more friendly and walkable for pedestrians, which allows both its daily use and enjoyment as well as the holding of events there. The new space, in addition to becoming a safer area for pedestrians, acts as an element of economic dynamization of the urban centre of Ferrol.

### **Degree of coverage of the target population**

The privileged location of the Armas square in the heart of the historic district of A Magdalena in the heart of the city centre of Ferrol, makes the residents of the neighbourhood (5,281 inhabitants) direct beneficiaries of the action, who can enjoy in their daily lives a new place to stay without danger, since the square is restored as a true urban hall designed for the hospitality and comfort of all citizens. Likewise, so are the rest of the residents of the municipality of Ferrol and bordering councils who travel to the neighbourhood to shop, stroll or do their business at the town hall.

In addition, it should be remembered that this is the recovery of an urban public space within the City of Enlightenment, one of the main tourist attractions of the city and an obligatory stop for all visitors to the city who wish to enjoy its historical, cultural and artistic heritage. Thus, a space has been created that is attractive both for the inhabitants of Ferrol and for its visitors.

**Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.**

The action is aimed at all citizens in general without distinction of sex, race or religion, therefore, it is considered an integrating and non-discriminatory project, which favours personal interrelation. The renovation and improvement of public lighting helps to increase the safety of citizens, particularly women.

It also complies with the principle of accessibility by creating an open and continuous plane. The unevenness that existed with respect to the surrounding streets and the stairs facing Real street has been eliminated, creating a square space flush with all the roads around the perimeter of the square. This accessibility is reinforced by widening the section of the pavements, practically doubling their width around the perimeter of the square.



In terms of social responsibility and environmental sustainability, the entire perimeter of the square has been pedestrianised, contributing to the protection of the environment by recovering and improving the urban environment in terms of adapting the public space to sustainable mobility. A wooded area has been created and LED lighting has been installed, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention**

The reconstruction of the Armas square has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Special Plan for the Protection and Reform of the A Magdalena neighbourhood, drawn up for the protection of its heritage and urban regeneration. In this sense, the Ferrol City Council will undertake in the coming months the redevelopment of the Igrexa street, one of the main streets of the district of A Magdalena in the vicinity of the Armas square, and Pardo Baixo street, helping to continue improving the conditions of accessibility of the neighborhood and orienting it to the greater enjoyment of people. In addition, within this neighbourhood, the renovation and improvement of the energy efficiency of the public lighting in Magdalena Street and the streets adjacent to the Armas square, Cantón de Molins and Constitución square were also carried out.

Finally, the action is also closely linked to the various redevelopment interventions in streets such as Espartero, Carmen Curuxeiras or San Francisco that are being carried out in the neighbourhood of Ferrol Vello, next to the neighbourhood of A Magdalena, and like the latter, declared an Asset of Cultural Interest as a historical site, with the aim of recovering the historical heritage of the city and the economic and social regeneration of the neighbourhood.



*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**