

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Repair of deteriorated stoned element, crack filling of Los Canapés monument and improvement of surroundings paving.

Avilés City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**



## **I-DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **Good Practice: Repair of deteriorated stoned element, crack filling of Los Canapés monument and improvement of surroundings paving**

The operation described on this document consists on the rehabilitation of Los Canapés monument and the improvement of its surroundings. To achieve that, a petrological study was conducted before the operation which included works of data collection and analysis of monument's state. All of that was the basis to the rehabilitation project which later guided the preservation works implemented.

As well as the repair of monument's damages, a square has been build and new illumination elements have been installed in order to maximize the turistic experience both for citizens and visitors. To complete the operations a small wall has been built to contribute to organize monument's surroundings

Los Canapés monument was built on 1786 and designed by the asturian architect and sculptor José Bernardo de la Meana Costales. They are two big stoned "sofas" of 11,64 metres long, 2,60 m. wide and 3,30 meters tall made of light beige stone from Bustiello's quarry.

Los Canapés were declared historic-artistic Monument, along with Avilés Old Town, on 1955.

Considering the importance of the monument and its state of conservation, some rehabilitation works have been held with the intention of approaching patrimony to citizens and tourism. The further list contains all jobs executed:

- Monument consolidation using “kintsukuroi” technique which focus on repair what is damaged without hiding the scars.
- When a big stoned piece was missing, it has been recovered on those cases when it corresponded to a functional element or when the lost was remarkable as happened to the southwestern bench were the lost arms have been renewed.
- Recovering the condition of the monument as a stop point on the way by changing the central paving for granite pavers that build a small square.
- The rest of the path has gotten a aggregate washed concrete finish on grey color which will join the area with the following bridge. This will unify the floor until the start of the street on the other side, coherently highlighting the area.
- Following the same criteria of highlighting the area, new streetlights have been placed by the monument.
- Railing have been painted on graphite gray
- Close trees have been pruned in order to avoid damage to the monument.
- A small wall of 33m long, 0,50m wide and 0,5m high has been built towards the south as a faithful copy of the existing one placed at the other side of the road, which now shows three new wooden benches..
- Stone has been treated so colonization of plants can be avoided.

- Covers of the installations have been replaced for others according to the aesthetics of the operation to hide telephone cables on the area.



State of the monument before the restoration



Petrological study



Rehabilitation



After rehabilitation

The budget for this work is **€306,841**, of which the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) is contributing **€245,472.28**. The work will have a direct impact for Versalles neighbourhood population: 18.785 inhabitants. It will also impact the rest of the citizens of Avilés as a patrimonial element placed on a walking area. Visitors coming to the city will also enjoy the operation; according to data from Avilés Tourist Office, in 2021 23,743 people visited the city.

## II.- COMPLIANCE OF "GOOD PRACTICE" CRITERIA

Repair of deteriorated stoned element, crack filling of Los Canapés monument and improvement of surroundings paving is considered a good practice because it follows all of the 7 defined criteria:

**1. The role of the ERDF has been conveniently disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries, and the public in general.**

In order to communicate the project, several items have been released, in the next pages we show some examples of them. Information about the operation has been also published for the citizenship on <http://www.aviles.es/feder>

- News on media



14/09/2019 published on La Voz de Avilés

03/06/2022 published on La Nueva España

- Avilés social media profiles

**Facebook**



On the 2nd of June, 2022, a video showing the institutional visit to the finished work was released on Facebook.

Available on: <https://bit.ly/3s5PScv>

## Twitter



## Instagram



Reel available on: <https://bit.ly/3ePizY9>

**- National press ad**

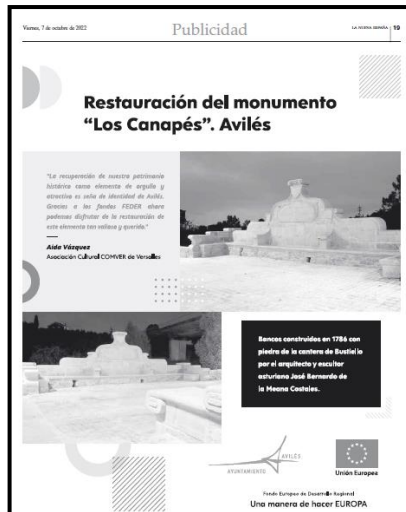
Ads were published on the following printed national media:

Medio de comunicación	Fecha de publicación
ABC	September 23rd, 2022
EL PAÍS SEMANAL	September 25th, 2022
Expansión Nacional	September 24th, 2022
La Razón	September 23rd, 2022
Marca	September 26th, 2022
Viajes	September 30th, 2022

**- Spots on local radio**

Radio spots were broadcasted on SER Avilés and COPE Avilés. They included the most relevant data about the rehabilitation and the words of President of the neighbours association Comver Versailles Aida Vázquez remarking ERDF contribution.

**- Local press ads (in colour) and regional press ads (in black & white)**



## **- Permanent plaque**



### **2.- The initiative incorporates innovative elements**

This is an innovative project because it encourages pedestrian traffic and increases the amount of promenade and leisure areas of the city. It also values the city heritage both for citizens and visitors.

"Kintsukuroi" technique is used for the restoration of cracks at Los Canapés monument. "Scars" of the stone are now a reason of pride instead of something to be hidden, as it used to happen. This approach enhances the beauty of the pass of time and assures the preservation of heritage.

Moreover, the restoration improves the image of Versailles neighbourhood making it more attractive for tourism and also for its population and those who live in other areas of the city of Avilés. As a result, an area that, due to its peripheral location, has been less visited, wins relevance.

### **3.- The results obtained are in line with the established objectives**

This project is in line with the established objectives as it focus on the protection of cultural , historical an natural heritage of the city as a source of tourism revitalization. Restoring Los Canapés monument increases the value of an important area that, due to be outside de old city, had been forgotten and left apart from touristic routes.

The improvement of the surroundings and the access to the monument also contributes to the increasing of its relevance, as it is easier and more comfortable to visit it.

### **4.- It contributes to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness**

Due to the urban development of the city along the decades as well as the transformation of routines and ways of using public spaces because os life styles changes, Los Canapés monument is now located at an area with a low pedestrian traffic. That is why it was not well preserved and the maintenance works of the surroundings were abandoned.

Restoring the monument contributes to solve this problem and to give importance to a heritage element which is relevant for the city. All of it helps to increasing pedestrian traffic and touristic visits.

### **5.- It reaches a good portion of the target population**



This initiative reaches Versalles population: 18,785 people. It also creates a link between Versalles and La Luz neighbourhood, in which 15,927 people live.

The rehabilitation of Los Canapés could be considered to affect to all Avilés inhabitants as it is a part of the city heritage. According to Spanish National Statistics Institute, in 2021 76,874 people were living in Avilés.

On top of that, visitors from outside the city can also enjoy the project in their touristic activities. Data from Avilés Tourist Office shows 23,743 people visited the city in 2021.

#### **6.- Horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability have been taken into account**

This project follows all selection criteria as it contributes to the resolution of problems, social cohesion and respect for equality and sustainability principles.

The initiative applies sustainability criteria as it focuses on the preservation of city heritage.

It pursues and achieves to represent non-discrimination and equality values because it is developed at a peripheral area, Versalles neighbourhood, which has been traditionally excluded. This way life conditions of citizens from different parts of the city are more equal.

Finally, communication of the project does always use gender-inclusive language.

#### **7.- Synergies with other policies or instruments of public involvement**

The project "Repair of deteriorated stoned element, crack filling of Los Canapés monument and improvement of surroundings paving" is one of the operations of Avilés EDUSI that pursues the goal of preserve and protect the environment and promote an efficient resources management.

It is a goal also shared by two other projects: "Implementation of separated organic waste collecting in Avilés municipality" and "Reurbanization of Carmen's street and refurbishment of the old schools of Alto del Vidriero".

All of them are related to each other as they are thought to protecting and enhancing cultural and natural heritage in urban areas, with a special focus on those that get touristic attention. They are also complementary projects, especially the rehabilitation of Los Canapés and the refurbishment of the old schools of Alto del Vidriero as they built a touristic "bridge" that communicates La Luz and Versalles neighbourhoods. This fact promotes the possibility of organizing guided touristic routes and builds a new way of getting to know different areas of the city. In addition to that, the project of the implementation of separated organic waste collecting includes the redesign of Versalles' park, which adds a green area as a potential touristic point on the route that the other two projects built.

Repair of Los Canapés monument is also connected to those projects that take place at Versalles as the "Improvement of energy efficiency of public lighting at Versalles and La Luz neighbourhoods", which contributes to a better lighting of the area where the monument is placed which increases its attractiveness. The "Urban sustainable mobility plan", that promotes more environment-friendly Means of Transportation, does contribute to give a better image of the neighbourhood which helps to call tourists attention more easily.

Furthermore, rehabilitation of Los Canapés monument contributes to the success of the project called "Business revitalization plan for the neighbourhoods of Versalles and La Luz" as it will help bringing visitors, and potential shoppers, to these two areas.

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