

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Creation of a Park-and-Ride Car in Tribunal de las Aguas: Balcó del Turia

Quart de Poblet City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**

## **Good Practice: CREATION OF A PARK-AND-RIDE CAR PARK IN TRIBUNAL DE LAS AGUAS**

The good practice co-financed by the ERDF Fund consists of constructing a two-storey underground car park in Tribunal de las Aguas Street, called Balcó del Túria, next to Turia Natural Park. This car park has 229 spaces for vehicles up to a maximum height of 2.20 metres and reserves nine spaces for motorbikes. A large pedestrian square has been created on its surface, which also forms part of the overall Balcó del Túria project, with games, vegetation, a shaded area and a viewpoint overlooking the riverbed. It also has an outdoor area with 53 parking spaces (included in the above total) and canopies for protection from the sun and rain.

This is a free, rotating, park-and-ride car park. Users will not be able to park their cars for more than 48 hours so as to encourage rotation, as no fixed parking spaces will be allocated. Furthermore, the facility encourages park-and-ride. This means that one's vehicle can be left in a peripheral area of the town, but close enough to key services to walk and so avoid entering the city centre by car. The car park can be used by residents registered in the municipality and owners of vehicles registered in the town.

In total, the building consists of 5,082 square metres, while the surface area of the outdoor area is 1,635.25 square metres. Vehicle access is via a ramp to overcome the difference in level from Calle Tribunal de las Aguas, while pedestrian access is via two staircase huts located in the square.

The infrastructure also has toilets, changing rooms, a reception, a video surveillance system with cameras inside and outside and lifts. Furthermore, there are solar panels on the exterior canopies and on the access huts for electricity supply.

The budget for the project is EUR 2.4 million, of which the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is contributing EUR 1.2 million. The operation will have a direct impact on the Rio Turia neighbourhood population of 11,000 inhabitants, and in general on the more than 24,500 residents of Quart de Poblet, as they will be able to travel to nearby services such as the courts and hospital.



*PHOTOS OF THE NEW CAR PARK*

The criteria for identifying this intervention as a good practice are the following:

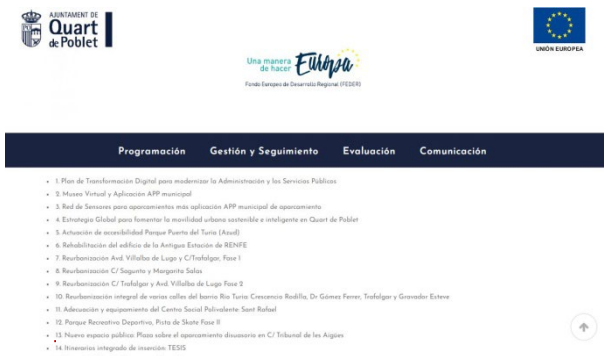
**1. THE ERDF’S ROLE IN THE INTERVENTION WAS APPROPRIATELY CIRCULATED AMONGST POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

In order to publicise the intervention, the ERDF’s role in the operation was publicised widely, from the planning phase (prior to writing the project), during execution (works phase) through to inauguration and opening the space to residents.

In regards to regulatory communications, throughout the works phase an informatory notice of works was erected on site and once works were completed a permanent plaque was installed, as well as a specific section on the member state’s unique municipal web portal, notifying visitors of the ERDF’s co-financing.



*SIGN AT THE WORKS*



*UNIQUE WEB PORTAL*



*PERMANENT PLAQUE*

In order to adequately inform the public of intervention details, taking into account the project’s magnitude, explanatory leaflets were published, one at the start of the project and the second to provide information on its implementation and operation. Both were distributed at points of interest in the town (town hall, library, social centres and so on) and were distributed by letterbox to homes in the Río Turia neighbourhood.



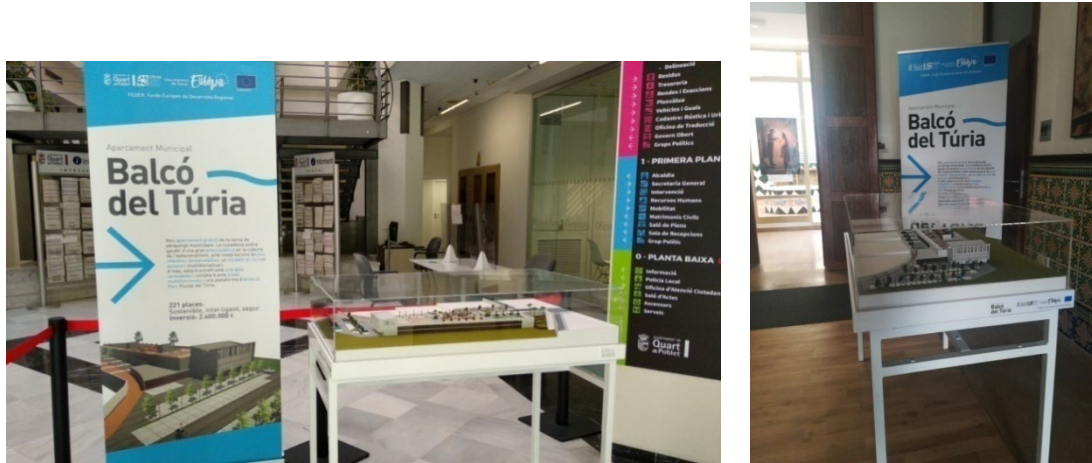
**APERTURA AL PÚBLICO**  
**Aparcamiento Municipal Balcó del Túria**  
 3 de abril 2023

1. Si tu **vehículo está censado** en Quart de Poblet, acércate a la barrera y esta se abrirá.
2. **Accede y estaciona.**
3. Utiliza las **escaleras de acceso** ubicadas en la plaza peatonal para poder entrar y salir del aparcamiento a pie. Identifícate mediante el **DNI/NIE** de la persona titular del vehículo estacionado en los **paneles digitales** que encontrarás.
4. Sal con tu vehículo del aparcamiento.

229 plazas.  
 Sostenible, inteligente, seguro.  
 Inversión: 2.400.000 millones

*INFORMATION LEAFLETS*

Since this is an intervention that would change the urban landscape and have a great impact on the neighbourhood, a model of the project was made so that residents could familiarise themselves with it. This has been exhibited in various municipal spaces such as the Town Hall and the Casa de la Cultura (Cultural Centre), as well as in popular local events, including the Trade Fair and Christmas Fair. The model was always accompanied by an explanatory roll-up containing details on Balcó del Túria.



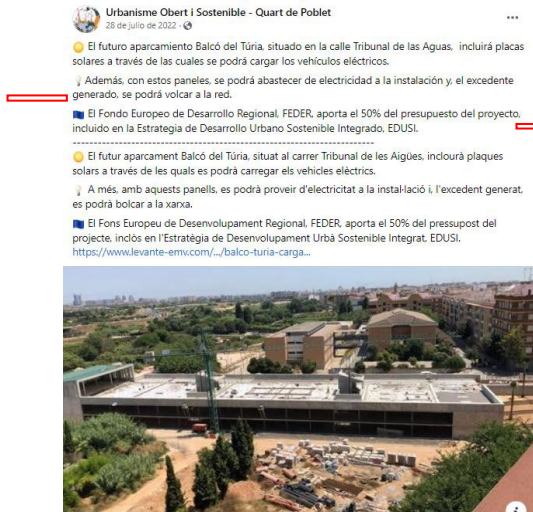
With regard to the news published in the written press, the project has been widely disseminated in regional and autonomous community media, both print and digital editions, as well as exclusively in online media. The provincial newspapers *Levante* and *Las Provincias* (the two with the largest circulation in the Valencian Community) published news on the project, its execution and opening. All of them gave information on the operation, co-financing and the ERDF's role in these.

**Levante**  
 Suscríbete a todos los contenidos Premium de Levante EMV por 7 céntimos al día

**Quart amplía la oferta de aparcamiento con Balcón del Turia**  
 El proyecto asciende a 2,4 millones de euros, de los que el FEDER financia el 50%

**LAS PROVINCIAS**  
 Llegar el 50% a precio  
**La primera fase de las obras del nuevo aparcamiento de Quart acabará cuatro meses antes de lo previsto**  
 Las instalaciones del Balcón del Turia suponen una inversión de 2,4 millones de euros, cofinanciados con fondos europeos

Furthermore, the municipal profiles of the City Council and Urban Planning (the area that promotes the Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy, co-financed by the ERDF Fund) have been used to disseminate all the progress made. The municipal website has also been reporting the latest news on the subject.



Lastly, an informative video has been produced, in two versions: a longer one with interviews and a shorter one, which includes Balcó del Túria, both the car park and the square on the surface. These audiovisual materials have been disseminated on social networks and youtube.

Links to videos:

Short version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ7waXeu\\_cA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZ7waXeu_cA)

Long version: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJl\\_0O6FP8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJl_0O6FP8E)

## 2. THE INTERVENTION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.

The project incorporates innovative elements that promote the construction's sustainability and energy savings. One example is the solar panels installed on the pedestrian access huts and outdoor canopies, which supply the entire building with energy. These panels also provide electricity to the charging points for electric vehicles.

To gain access with a vehicle, an intelligent number plate reading system has been installed to find out if the car is registered in the municipality. Once the check has been carried out, the barrier is lifted. If, on the other hand, you enter as a pedestrian, you must enter the DNI/NIE of the vehicle owner as the password.

In addition, the building is equipped with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), an innovative method that prevents flooding in the event of heavy rainfall by harnessing rainwater. This method injects the water from the subsoil, conducting it to a lamination basin and thus ensuring its correct purification. It is a nature-based solution that recharges aquifers, reproducing the natural water cycle.

## 3. MATCHING RESULTS OBTAINED TO THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES.

This intervention has attained its main objective: to provide a free public car park on the outskirts of the city in order to reduce traffic in the city centre and the pressure of private vehicles. This will considerably reduce the emission of polluting gases and promote walking and non-polluting transport such as cycling.

Furthermore, parking has been provided in a neighbourhood with hardly any private garages due to the age of properties, built in the 1950s and 1960s. Residents can thus avoid having to drive around the

neighbourhood, with the consequent pollution this generates, while a safe, covered parking space is provided. For residents who do not live in the neighbourhood it is also useful, as there are services such as a court and hospital nearby, for which there is no free parking nearby. It has also succeeded in revitalising the area and contributing to renovating the Río Turia neighbourhood, as the area was previously degraded and indiscriminately used as a makeshift car park.



*BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF THE AREA*

#### **4. CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLVING A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF WORKS.**

The Río Turia neighbourhood had barely any private garages or parking areas, so there were obvious parking problems. Furthermore, there is a hospital, courthouse, and within the neighbourhood itself, schools, shops and other services. To alleviate this deficiency, it was decided to create this infrastructure which, by being located on the district periphery, contributes to reducing road traffic and favouring sustainable mobility, reducing pollution.

Another of the problems detected in this area was, despite its proximity, inadequate connection to Turia Natural Park. The construction and square also serve as a link to the river basin, since the metropolitan green ring begins at this point, connecting to the park entrance. It thus becomes a further key waterway landmark, characterising and defining its course.

Lastly, the area's deterioration, aggravated by indiscriminate use of the area as a car park, was prevented. It has also been possible to bridge the existing difference in level with the two floors of the car park and create an accessible surface with a parking space at ground level.

#### **5. DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE POPULATION TOWARDS WHOM IT IS DIRECTED.**

The interventions undertaken are confined to Quart de Poblet's Río Turia neighbourhood, which has a high population density (10,984 inhabitants, in an area of barely 0.434 km<sup>2</sup>).

The degree of coverage is high, covering 100% of the neighbourhood population. The operation has a highly beneficial impact on the population most directly affected, which is approximately 10,984 people, but also on the municipality's other inhabitants (approximately 24,500 inhabitants), because they can use this space to park their cars and go to nearby public services on foot.

#### **6. CONSIDERING THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION, ALONG WITH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**



The action has been carried out under the parameters of equal opportunities and non-discrimination through application of the principle of total accessibility in the construction. To this end, seven parking spaces have been provided for people with reduced mobility and different abilities, four of them inside and three in the outdoor area. It also has lifts to access the car park without any architectural barriers. In addition, the square on the surface is built at ground level from Tribunal de las Aguas Street, without architectural barriers.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the building has been designed to be energy self-sufficient, with solar panels installed in the surface plaza and those located in the outdoor area providing electricity for the complex. In the event of a surplus, it is sold to the electricity grid. This contributes significantly to energy savings and, consequently, to reducing pollution. Recharging points for electric vehicles have also been included, promoting this type of less environmentally aggressive cars.

In this regard, it is also worth noting that, as it is a park-and-ride facility, vehicles are brought together in a space close to the city centre, reducing road traffic and polluting emissions in the city centre.

We must highlight that the Balcó del Túria project is crowned with a fully accessible pedestrian plaza on the surface, including vegetation, LED lights, inclusive games and a viewpoint overlooking the river park, culminating the whole complex's 100% sustainable nature.

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

The intervention establishes synergies with other actions or public intervention policies. The key element is the public square on the surface, which is also co-financed by the ERDF Fund. This agora has been adapted to the car park design, serving as its culmination. It also houses the pedestrian access huts to the car park and contains the solar panels that supply electricity to the entire infrastructure.

Meanwhile, it is related to the Urban Sustainable Mobility Plan (PMUS), implemented to reorganise and improve traffic throughout the municipality. This programme includes a network of open-air car parks in different parts of the town, although the only one under cover and under surveillance is Balcó del Túria. The plan also includes promoting cycling and walking, along with electric vehicle charging points to encourage more sustainable transport. Another measure is the parking sensors, which are useful for finding a parking space without having to drive around the streets, saving time and CO2 emissions.

The intervention also establishes synergies with the overall urban renewal plan of the Río Turia neighbourhood where the square is located, involving street redevelopment. The remodelling of roads has involved widening pavements, giving priority to pedestrians, increasing vegetation and providing new public infrastructures for an old district lacking in quality public services. The new car park has been one of the highlights of the neighbourhood's transformation, providing it with a public space that helps reduce traffic and improve the quality of residents' life.

Lastly, the City Council is undertaking a campaign to promote Túria Natural Park and its enjoyment by the public. The square offers a connection to it, via the panoramic view that can be enjoyed from its location, along with a road for pedestrians and bikes linking it directly to the riverbed. In this way, the neighbourhood is integrated with and facilitates entrance to the river basin. Furthermore, it is complemented by another intervention co-financed by the ERDF: Puerta del Turia Park. This is located on the far side of the neighbourhood, and likewise establishes a new river basin entrance.

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