





Una manera de Bacer Europa



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Programa Operativo de País Vasco

Año 2022

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Good practices in actions co-financed with European Funds THE AZITAIN – MALTZAGA BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL

PRESENTATION

The Territorial Sectorial Plan for Bike Lanes in Gipuzkoa, approved by the General Assembly of Gipuzkoa in 2013, plans to create a territorial interurban network of bike lanes with intermunicipal links that ensures cycling connectivity in our province.

Its main aim is to cover daily journeys by urban and peri-urban cyclists, as well as bicycle tourism and leisure. At the same time, opportunities are provided for pedestrian traffic, through various solutions for coexistence and segregation.

This planned interurban network is currently 399 kilometres-long, and 235.4 km of these are already in service.

As part of this network, rounding off the link in the Eibar-Maltzaga-Elgoibar bicycle- pedestrian path, called Azitain – Maltzaga, is envisaged, in order to connect the most important towns in the Debabarrena area (Eibar, the local main town has 27,195 residents; and Elgoibar has 11,384), in order to continue boosting active mobility in this area for daily and leisure travel. It should be noted that, previously, interurban trips by bicycle between both towns were made in a road environment with heavy traffic that circulates at high speeds; with very few spaces for walking and leisure close to nature. This is why it is envisaged that there is a huge latent demand by cyclists and pedestrians for the infrastructure mentioned here.

The action that we are presenting here as a Good Practice consists of the construction of the aforementioned Azitain – Maltzaga section, which is 2.1 km long, and is unusual in having had to overcome the problems of fitting its route into the narrow Ego valley, where the river ends up being squeezed between some important road and rail infrastructures: the N-634 and GI-627 roads, the Euskal Trenbide Sarea train line, and the AP-1 and AP-8 motorways.

This action has been launched by the Gipuzkoa Provincial Council Department of Mobility and Town and Country Planning, and it has cost 5,221,276.58 euros, and has received community aid amounting to 1,135,214.32 euros within the framework of the ERDF Operational Programme in the Basque Country 2014-2020.

It is felt that this action should be considered to be a Good Practice as it is understood that it fully meets the criteria defined for the selection of Good Practices in Actions co-financed with European Funds, which are shown below:

CRITERION 1. Widespread dissemination among beneficiaries and the general public.

The following communication activities have been carried out:

Putting up information posters during the construction work and permanent plaques once this has been completed





Publication of press releases stressing the contribution made by the ERDF

El bidegorri Azitain-Maltzaga estará listo a lo largo del próximo año

La diputada de Movilidad y Ordenación de Territorio, Rafaela Romero, ha visitado en Eibar la construcción del tramo de cerca de dos kilómetros que culminará la conexión ciclista y peatonal entre Eibar y Elgoibar.

14/11/2019 MOVILIDAD

La diputada foral de Movilidad y Ordenación del Territorio de la Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa, Rafaela Romero —en compañía del alcalde de Eibar, Miguel de los Toyos— ha visitado este mediodía los trabajos de construcción del bidegorri Azitain-Maltzaga, iniciados en verano de 2019.

El nuevo tramo, con un presupuesto total de 5,1 millones de euros, tendrá una longitud próxima a los 2 kilómetros de distancia, y está siendo ejecutado en dos fases. La primera de ellas, en curso ahora mismo, arrancó en el barrio elbarries de Azitain y su conclusión está prevista para a lo largo del próxima año. Una segunda fase permitirá la conexión posterior con Maltzaga, que marca la frontera entre Eibar y Elgoibar y enlaza con el tramo de bidegorri y a construido en la localidad elgoibarresa. Dicha conexión será posible gracias a la construcción de 5 pasarelas – 2 de ellas de más de 80 metros de longitud – que cruzarán el río Ego, por un lado, y el río Deba y la carretera Gi-627, por otro.



Tras comprobar en Azitain el progreso de los trabajos del bidegorri, la diputada Rafaela Romero ha puesto en valor la trascendencia del nuevo trazado. "La orografía y las infraestructuras ya existentes en el recorrido hacian de este tramo un reto muy complicado, que ha requerido un análisis técnico muy riguroso y exhaustivo, de modo que es una enorme satisfacción comprobar que la construcción está ya en marcha y que pronto será una realidad. Esta vía peatonal y ciclista va a suponer todo un hito en el fomento del transporte sostenible en Debabarrena, y viene a atender los demandas de la ciudaria de la comarca, que la usarán a diaño. Es la política que acabo en hechos".

En palabras del alcalde, Miguel de los Toyos, "a pesar de los problemas internos que ha tenido la Diputación, por fin, han comenzado las obras del bidegorri tan esperado por miles de elbarreses/as, tal y como dejaron patente las miles de firmas obtenidas por el grupo de la Excuela de la Experiencia".

El nuevo bidegorri tendrá una anchura de en torno a 3 metros durante gran parte de su recorrido, por lo que permitirá albergar el tránsito fluido y seguro de bicicletas y peatones, y enlazará de manera definitiva el eje Elbar-Maltzaga-Elgolbar, completando así la unión ciclista y peatonal entre las localidades de Elbar y Elgolbar. Se trata de un tramo clave para la movilidad sostenible en Debabarrena, que permitirá conectar a sus personas con seguridad, atendiendo a una vieja demanda de la comarca", ha concluido Romero.

La via Azitain-Maltzaga viene a sumarse a la red de bidegorris de Gipuzkoa, que cuenta con353 kilómetros de recorrido y conecta entre si todas las comarcas de nuestro

Esta actuación está cofinanciada por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional en el marco del Programa Operativo FEDER del País Vasco 2014-2020.

Las obras del bidegorri, para primavera





«El bidegorri de Eibar va a ser un hito para la movilidad y un ejemplo en su construcción»



Publication in the "Gipuzkoa and the European Union Newsletter", by the Institutional Commitments Section of the Tax and Finance Policy Department , which is widely distributed by e-mail and is also available on the specific web page for these purposes. Among its aims is the dissemination of the actions carried out by Gipuzkoa Provincial Council co-financed by the ERDF.





La Diputación ha inaugurado el bidegorri entre Eibar y Elgoibar, una compleja obra cofinanciada por el Fondo FEDER de la UE en su Programa Operativo para Euskadi 2014-20

La ciudadanía de Debabarrena puede disfrutar ya del nuevo bidegorri que conecta Elbar con Elgoibar. Esta actuación va a estar cofinanciada por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional en el marco del Programa Operativo FEDER del País Vasco 2014-2020.

El diputado general Markel Olano y la diputada foral de Movilidad y Ordenación del Territorio de la Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa, Rafaela Romero, acompañados por el alcalde de Eibar, Miguel de los Toyos y la alcaldesa de Elgobar Ane Beltia, han inaugurado el bidegorri que une de manera peatonal y ciclista los dos principales nicideos poblacionales de Debabarrena, Eibar y Elgobar, una vez finalizado el tramo Azitain-Maltzaga, cumpliendo los plazos establecidos.

El primero de los tramos fue terminado el pasado mes de septiembre y el bidegorri completo -de 2.1 kidómetros de longitud- que conecta las localidades de Elbar y Elgobar para ciclistas y peatones, ha sido culminado este mes de diciembre, ofreciendo un trazado clave para la movisidad ciclista y peatonal en la comarca de Debabarren. El tramo que conecta Azitan con Maltzaga cuentes con custro pasarelas para salvar la dificultad geográfica y posibilitar los desplazamientos ciclistas y peatonales, Dos de ellas con una longitud superior a los 80 metros, que cruzan el río Ego y el río Deba y la carretera GI-627, respectivamente.

La ejecución de este nuevo bidegorri ha contado con un presupuesto de 5,1 millones de euros, con una longitud total de 2,1 kilómetros y una anchura de en tomo a 3 metros durante gran parte de su recorrido, permite albergar el tránsito fluido y seguro de bicicletas y peatones, y enlaza de manera definitiva el eje Eibar-Maltizaga-Ejobiur, completando así la unión ciclista y peatonal entre las dos localidades más pobladas de la zona. La Diputación ha presentado Gipuzkoa como referente europeo en el Congreso Ibérico de la Bicicleta, y ha destacado el bidegorri de Eibar-Maltzaga y su cofinanciación por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

La Diputada de Movilidad y Ordenación del Territorio, Rafaela Romero, junto al director de movilidad, Ander Iturri, han participado en el Congreso Ibérico de la Bicicleta que ha organizado la Federación Portuguesa de Cicloturismo y Usuarios de la Bicicleta en Barcelos (Portugal). En su ponencia los responsables de la movilidad de Gipuzkoa han coincidido en señalar y destacar el papel de "Gipuzkoa como modelo de movilidad sostenible en Europa".

El Plan Territorial Sectorial de Vías Ciclistas y la Estrategia de la Bicicleta son los pilares sobre los que se ha desarrollado la movilidad ciclista del territorio y que responde a los parámetros establecidos por la UE con respecto a la movilidad sostenible.

Iturri ha destacado en su exposición el bidegorri de Eibar – Maltzaga, el cual ha definido como "un hito de la ingeniería al servicio de la movilidad sostenible". La red de vias ciclistas de Gipuzkoa "ha estado respaldada y cofinanciada desde un primer momento por el Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional en el marco del Programa Operativo FEDER del País Vasco 2014-2020".

En la presente legislatura representantes del Departamento de Movilidad ha tomado parte en diferentes foros en Londres o Stuttgart, entre otros. Han habitado sobre los beneficios del billiete único guipuzcoano, la tarjeta MUGI. y la manera de impulsar un transporte mucho más sostenible; o la experiencia guipuzcoana como referente en Europa en la construcción de bidegorris.

(+ información

Publication in the magazine, Bizikletaz



The Intermedio Organisation has disseminated the project through its web page



Bidegorris - Fondos europeos - European funds (gipuzkoa.eus)

An information video about the Project has also been made that can be downloaded at: Azitain-Maltzaga



In December 2020 the **Opening ceremony** was held that was attended by the Provincial Council president, the Gipuzkoa Provincial Councillor for Mobility and Town and Country planning, the mayor of Eibar and the mayor of Elgoibar.

CRITERION 2. The action includes innovative aspects.

This action has made it possible to round off two sections that form part of a provincial inter-urban network. This forms a strategic link for the purposes of boosting active mobility in the Debabarrena area, which has shortcomings as far as this kind of infrastructure is concerned. This is also a route with possibilities of linking up with neighbouring areas, such as Durangoaldea, in Bizkaia, and as a result, it has prospects of forming part of other cycling networks with greater range and territorial scope.

In this way, it also meets a persistent demand from citizens and institutions in this respect, given the heavy motor traffic on the conventional road network, and the lack of safe, direct and attractive cycling lanes, and of spaces for walking.

So, thanks to this project, citizens are now offered the possibility of taking bike trips that are safe and segregated from motor traffic in a natural environment; while at the same time it encourages walking in coexistence with cyclists.

It is essential to stress the technical complexity of the project that has been carried out, the largest that has ever been carried out in the inter-urban cycling lane network in Gipuzkoa. In fact, this infrastructure has had to negotiate the riverbeds of the rivers Ego and Deba, and to get round the AP-1 motorway, the GI-627 road, the Bidegi line of toll booths in Azitain, public transport stops for passengers on Lurraldebus lines, and Euskotren stations. This has meant having to build four footbridges, two of which are more than 80 metres long, specifically, the ones that cross the rivers Ego and Deba, and the GI-627 road.

The innovative aspect of this action is based on the fact that it implements an engineering project to construct a bike lane. This project involves a great deal of technical complexity, is difficult to fit into the landscape and has a high financial cost; it is an intervention that bears no comparison with any of those carried out to date in other areas of Spain. In fact, there are no equivalent examples of sections of bike lanes that have managed to be fitted into similar environments extensively taken up by large road infrastructures, and that in an area of 2 km have required building four footbridges (one of which is more than 80 metres long), and cross two rivers, a road and get round a motorway.

CRITERION 3. Adapting the results obtained to the established aims.

With the launch of this bike lane the planned aim has been met of completing this strategic cycling-pedestrian link that provides the towns of Eibar and Elgoibar with a direct service, while at the same time advancing in the development of the inter-urban network of cycling lines envisaged for Gipuzkoa as a whole.

It has also met the long-standing demands in this area for bike lanes segregated from motor traffic to make daily and leisure journeys safely; and to meet the needs that the general public have to enjoy the outdoors.

It is worth adding that this action helps at the same time to reduce the accident rate, noise levels and greenhouse gas emissions, and to improve health, by replacing vehicle journeys by others on foot or by bike, that are considerably healthier.

CRITERION 4. It helps to solve a problem or regional flaw.

It has helped to reduce the cycling infrastructure deficit in the Debabarrena area, in comparison with the rest of the province. In this way we have made progress in complying with the programme set out in the Territorial Sectorial Plan for Bike Lanes in Gipuzkoa, and in meeting the goals envisaged in the "Strategy to fight climate change in Guipuzcoa 2050", aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This infrastructure also provides a significant alternative to daily vehicle journeys made between Eibar and Elgoibar, that make up 84% of the journeys made between both towns.

CRITERION 5. High degree of coverage among its target population.

The degree of coverage that this infrastructure provides among the population is noteworthy, as it links the most important towns in the Debabarrena área (Eibar, the local main town, which has 27,195 residents; and Elgoibar which has 11,384). Added to this is the fact that it will help to boost active mobility among women, as there is clear evidence that launching these kinds of bike lanes leads to significant use of them, especially by women.

Due to the fact that the Euskal Trenbide Sarea train line runs through both towns, putting this section into service is also going to increase the joint use of the train and bikes for medium-long journeys, so that the population that could potentially benefit from this action is greater than the resident population in its vicinity.

Furthermore, this action is going to have a positive effect on improving the quality of the air that the entire population of the area breathe, as the envisaged replacement of vehicle use by walking or cycling will have a direct impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants into the atmosphere.

CRITERION 6. Consideration of horizontal criteria favouring equal opportunities and non-discrimination, environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

The principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination between men and women has been included in the various stages of the project. Specifically, throughout the implementation of the project they were obliged to apply measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, and to apply an equality plan. They also established measures to encourage the balance between work and the personal and/or family life of the staff assigned to implementing the project, and to adopt measures to ensure flexible timetables for staff with family responsibilities. In addition, non-sexist language was used in all the documentation and advertising that was produced, and any discriminatory portrayals of women or sexist stereotypes were avoided.

The action carried out meets the applicable environmental obligations. The company that was awarded the contract for the project provided proof that it possessed environmental management standards compliance certification. During the implementation of the project the Waste Management Plan that controls construction and demolition waste production and management was also carried out.

On another front, this project helps to increase the opportunities for walking and cycling, active modes of transport that are an alternative to the car, so that it contributes to reducing the volume of traffic, and therefore, to curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

CRITERION 7. Synergies with other public intervention tools or policies.

This action forms part of the programme set out in the Sectorial Territorial Plan for Bike Lanes in Gipuzkoa to create the inter-urban network of bike lanes in this province.

On the other hand, it forms part of the "Strategy to fight climate change in Guipuzcoa 2050", which expressly considers competing the development of the cycling infrastructures that belong to Gipuzkoa Provincial Council, envisaged in the aforementioned Plan.

It is worth pointing out that this action is fully in line with the "State Bicycle Strategy", of the Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda, that sets the Spanish Government guidelines to promote cycling up to 2025. In fact, this strategy proposes to create a network of inter-urban roads that covers all of Spain along certain continuous, homogenous axes. It also envisages providing support for planning, constructing and conserving bike lanes, in order to establish continuity between the urban and inter-urban lanes.

This cycling lane also provides a response to the Provincial Law 2/2015, for equality between men and women, which establishes that Gipuzkoa Provincial Council will guarantee that there are sustainable means of mobility and that safe unpolluted environments are created that encourage community life. As a result of this, the aforementioned Provincial Law requires the Department of Mobility and Town and Country Planning to boost mobility so that it includes a gender perspective, and especially addresses the needs of women. In this respect, there is wide-ranging empirical evidence that the creation of bike lanes results in a greater proportional increase in bike use among women, which leads to a reduction in the current gender gap, that occurs among bicycle users.







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