

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Redevelopment to improve accessibility and infrastructures on the streets. EDUSI Balcón del Turia

Quart de Poblet City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

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**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**

## **Good Practice: REDEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY IN CRESCENCIO RODILLA AND DOCTOR GÓMEZ FERRER STREETS AND OTHERS**

The good practice consists of comprehensive redevelopment to improve accessibility and infrastructures on the streets Crescencio Rodilla, Doctor Gómez Ferrer, Castellón, Riu Túria, Tribunal de las Aguas and Gravador Esteve, located in the Río Turia neighbourhood of Quart de Poblet. These works are in addition to those already carried out on other roads in the district, such as Trafalgar and Villalba de Lugo, which were also co-financed by the ERDF fund. Thus, renovation and revaluation of one of Quart de Poblet's disadvantaged areas was completed thanks to its inclusion in Spain's Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI).

The neighbourhood has a high population density, mostly living in buildings constructed in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. The streets were deficient in terms of infrastructure, accessibility, energy efficiency, green areas and quality public spaces. All of this, along with narrow pavements and lack of street furniture or rest areas, made Río Turia a neighbourhood prone to social degradation.

Through this intervention, accessibility was improved by widening pavements, while these roads' appearance and facilities were transformed, integrating them into the rest of the already remodelled neighbourhood by replacing street lighting and street furniture, planting vegetation and renewing the antiquated sewage system.

The intervention had an eligible budget of 1,066,741.82 EUR, of which ERDF aid amounted to 50%, or 533,370.91 EUR. The operation directly impacts the neighbourhood's population of 10,984 residents and more generally over 24,500 municipal residents.



*IMAGES OF THE COMPLETED INTERVENTION*

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.

The ERDF's role in the intervention 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 information notices concerning works were erected on site. 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.



CONSTRUCTION SITE SIGNS WHILE WORKS WERE IN PROGRESS



UNIQUE WEB PORTAL



PERMANENT PLAQUE

Regarding the news published in the written press, it was promoted in provincial and regional media, especially in the two newspapers with the largest circulation in Valencia: *Levante* and *Las Provincias*. Digital media likewise echoed the neighbourhood's transformation and new project developments as they arose.



REPORTS IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS

TV channel Ribera TV also dedicated a report to the neighbourhood’s redevelopment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S30EPTYKuRs>

Insofar as social networks, the intervention was posted on the Facebook of the Town Council and the Department of Urban Planning and Environment – which coordinates the EDUSI – and the municipal Twitter account.



Meanwhile, to guarantee residents in the affected streets were included in the redevelopment process, the City Council convened several open citizen commissions run by municipal technical staff. These informed them of the intervention first-hand while asking for their opinion and contributions for improving the intervention in the affected streets from their viewpoint. At all meetings the ERDF’s role and its funding was highlighted, while the specific visual support for the EDUSI and ERDF was displayed.



*IMAGE OF TWO OF THE CITIZENS' COMMISSIONS DISPLAYING THE ERDF ROLL-UP*

Furthermore, to ensure dissemination, a video was filmed on the neighbourhood's transformation through the street redevelopment. This audiovisual was disseminated on YouTube and social networks.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bk\\_BQZR-3w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bk_BQZR-3w)



*VIDEO SCREENGAB*

## **2. THE INTERVENTION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.**

The intervention incorporates innovative elements in terms of its conception as an urban development designed to combat climate change and offer a healthier, more sustainable, pleasant city for residents. This has been possible thanks to measures favouring the reduction of polluting emissions, such as replacing street lights with LED luminaires, widening pavements to favour pedestrian traffic and reducing road traffic, while increasing vegetation. One of the streets, Castellón, has even been pedestrianised at the request of the neighbourhood itself to reduce the nuisance of road traffic. All of these actions promote climate resilience, protecting the locality from the threats of climate change and following UN Sustainable Development Goals guidelines while implementing the 2030 Agenda. On the other hand, a former shelter from the Spanish Civil War was uncovered during the works. After the discovery, an archaeologist measured, made a topographical study and drew the structure in order to document and catalogue it, as this type of space is deemed an Asset of Local Relevance, and must therefore be properly defined and protected.

Another differentiating element was renewal of the drinking water and sewerage collectors, replacing the asbestos pipes with new, more environmentally friendly ones containing no polluting material. After it was detected that there were dwellings connected to the ditch system, it was decided to act to stop the discharges by disconnecting the house connections from the ditch network and correctly connect them to the sewerage system. Thus, wastewater from households is no longer being discharged into irrigation ditches, ensuring that it is properly treated and purified. This is a fundamental environmental intervention, as it stops the direct discharge of this type of water into the river.

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

Through the interventions undertaken, the planned objectives were achieved, which were to prevent the area's degradation, complete the urban transformation and offer a pleasant, sustainable, environmentally friendly space suitable for residents. This was achieved by widening the pavements and removing

architectural barriers to ensure universal mobility and encourage walking. One of the roads, Castellón, has even been reserved for pedestrian use only. In addition, using recycled and recyclable materials, along with new LED lighting, which considerably reduces energy consumption, has resulted in a more efficient public space, in line with urban planning based on sustainability.

Below are images of how deterioration affected the area where the work was carried out.



*THE STREETS APPEARED VERY DETERIORATED AND HAD URBAN DEFICIENCIES*

Another objective was renovating and improving the neighbourhood by planting trees, installing new urban furniture and providing new infrastructure, thus creating a more suitable neighbourhood for residents and a more suitable place to live, slowing its degradation.

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

The main deficiency detected in the neighbourhood was the area's poor urban quality, as it was a neighbourhood built during the 1960s without adequate or sustainable urban planning. The age of the houses, poor construction quality and deterioration caused by the passage of time had led to the neighbourhood's degradation, turning it into an unattractive district lacking the necessary infrastructure.

A clear lack of pedestrian and recreational space was thus detected, one that invited neighbours to enjoy the public area, fostering social cohesion. This was compounded by traffic pollution, a lack of greenery and the energy waste caused by an outdated, inefficient lighting system. For all these reasons, the action has helped to solve the problems and weaknesses detected in the streets where the intervention has taken place.

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

The work was carried out in Crescencio Rodilla, Doctor Gómez Ferrer and Gravador Esteve streets, located in the Riu Turia neighbourhood, a district with a high population density (10,984 inhabitants, in an area of just 0.434 Km<sup>2</sup>). As well as benefiting these streets' inhabitants themselves, the degree of coverage is high, covering 100% of the neighbourhood population. Residents have to pass through the affected roads to access different points of interest in the area, such as shops and public services, and the renovation has also allowed for walking areas to be increased.

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

From intervention planning to implementation, the horizontal criterion of equal opportunities, especially for older people, has been taken into consideration. The neighbourhood is home to a large proportion of the older population, which is why the urban renewal was planned to transform the roads into spaces that would be convenient for elderly residents. Likewise, environmental sustainability criteria were met, as the philosophy behind the project is based 100% on respect for the environment. Thus, in selecting materials, construction methods and installations, priority was given to those that reduce CO2 emissions (local materials, reduced transport distances or recycled and recyclable materials) and incorporate sustainability criteria. The landscape appearance of these public roads was also improved by repositioning street furniture, but above all by renewing the road surfaces and pavements, and incorporating a more accessible and functional design.

In terms of accessibility, architectural barriers were eliminated through zebra crossings at zero level to make it easier for people with reduced mobility or those with pushchairs to cross the street. Additionally, placement of bollards prevents vehicles from parking incorrectly and thereby impeding the passage of users requiring more walking space. Finally, a whole street was pedestrianised at the residents' request.

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

This intervention was implemented thanks to the synergies established with other projects, such as the total renovation of the Río Turia neighbourhood, which began with redeveloping Trafalgar and Villalba de Lugo streets (an operation deemed an ERDF co-financed Best Practice). Other operations have been undertaken in the district, such as constructing a free, two-storey public car park with a pedestrian square on its surface, also co-financed by the ERDF. Traffic calming has thus been achieved, as dictated by the Spanish Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS). Other related interventions include creating a fully accessible ramp on Paterna Street in the same neighbourhood, bridging a difference in level and allowing proper access to Turia Natural Park. Specifically, all the renovations are aligned with interventions to recover and enhance the river and river enclave, as the Town Council is working on recovering and enhancing the landscape environment. Therefore, in addition to this ramp, a park was also created to serve as a gateway to the green area, thus connecting and integrating the urban area with the river, adding a new intervention to the renovation.

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