

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS

MINISTERIO DE HACIEND



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas



Una manera de hacer Europa

Project for the construction of a by- pass in the route of the Vía Verde del Cidacos as it passes through the town of Arnedo, La Rioja Directorate-General for the Environment

Programa Operativo de La Rioja

Año 2018

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Best Practice Report for ACTIONS CO-FUNDED by ERDF

Public Authority: Directorate-General for the Environment. Government of La Rioja

<u>Name of the Best Practice:</u> Project for the construction of a by-pass in the route of the Vía Verde del Cidacos as it passes through the town of Arnedo, La Rioja

Description:

In 1996 the Directorate-general for Transport of the Government of La Rioja commissioned the Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles to draw up a Project "Vía Verde del Cidacos. Project for the adaptation of the stretch of former railway track between Calahorra and Arnedillo for use as a "Green Route" path" which laid out a proposal for recovering the old railway line between Calahorra and Arnedillo for the purpose of ecological tourism: hiking and cycling.

From the moment when this stretch was recovered, the Vía Verde del Cidacos has played an important role in encouraging the discovery of the natural and cultural assets of the Cidacos Valley.

With regard to the route, the Vía Verde del Cidacos comes from Quel and heads off across the flood meadows of the Cidacos as far as Arnedo. To skirt the built-up part of this town, the route passes behind a petrol station, turns sharply to the left and then snakes its way through the market gardens until it returns to the flood plain of the river.



Such a winding route makes it complicated for cyclists and dangerous for both cyclists and walkers, as the visibility is

restricted, and also it is unpleasant having to go past the back of the service station and the industrial area. For this reason, the possibility of modifying the route of the Vía Verde was considered in order to provide a route which was easier to follow by bicycle and safer and more enjoyable for the senses.

Consequently, the aim of this project is to make a new route which meets the desired objectives of access, ease of walking, safety and improvement to the landscape of the Vía Verde within the boundaries of the town of Arnedo.

The total investment made was 197,486 €.

Cost eligible for grants 191,999 €.

ERDF grant 95,999 €.

Result 0.679 km of new construction of the Vía Verde.

It is a Best Practice because it meets the criteria established for this:

1.- The action has been appropriately disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The action has been disseminated in accordance with the communication requirements laid down by the regulations, with <u>a noticeboard displayed during the execution of the work</u> and posterior erection of a <u>permanent information panel</u>, stating the contribution of the European Regional Development Fund to this project:



This action has been publicised through various different media and advertising activities:

• Press releases by the regional Government at the time the project was in gestation.



http://www.larioja.org/comunicacion/es/portavoz/medio-ambiente-invertira-241-000-euros-construccionvariant

News items included in various communication media

Newspaper "Noticias de La Rioja"



On-line newspaper "20 minutes":

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• <u>Act of inauguration of the re-routing of the Vía Verde del Cidacos in Arnedo in April 2018 by the</u> President of the Government of La Rioja and Authorities:



Video of interview with the President of the Government of La Rioja on the day of the opening ceremony:

• <u>Widespread reporting of the opening</u> of the Vía Verde del Cidacos Arnedo by-pass in press releases and in the media mentioning the co-funding of the project by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):

Press release



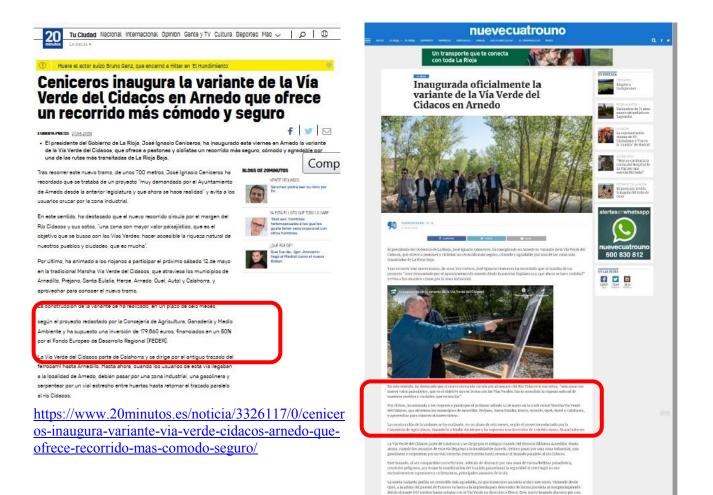
Communication Media

Newspaper "Noticias de La Rioja

Newspaper "La Rioja



On-line newspaper



https://nuevecuatrouno.com/2018/04/27/inauguradaoficialmente-la-variante-de-la-via-verde-delcidacos-en-arnedo/

2.- The action introduces innovative elements.

Through this action it has been possible to bring into contact the population potentially interested in this type of paths through a natural corridor of great natural and tourist interest, in such a way as to provide a response to the growing demand for activity tourism which preserves the environment and encourages knowledge about our natural, cultural and heritage resources and of every kind. This infrastructure is

designed basically for public use with the aim to promote accessible leisure pursuits in a natural setting, safe sport, cultural activities and protection of the environment, avoiding the need to pass close to a busy and more dangerous road for users, as well as providing this stretch of the Vía Verde de with a corridor next to the river which is of great scenic beauty.



3.- Matching the results obtained to the established goals.

The established goal of improving our paths has clearly been met, in order to met the growing needs of the general public to enjoy the open air, and even more so when it is a question of stretches passing through built-up areas in towns in which user safety is improved as well as the beauty of the stretch and making its use more attractive for the public in general.

4.- Contribution to solving a problem or weakness detected in the area of execution.

It has contributed to overcoming a problem or weakness in this stretch of the Vía Verde, since by considerably improving the outline of the route a better connection of the Vía Verde del Cidacos has been achieved, avoiding real risks for its users as well as the improvement in this stretch, with greater integration into the landscape making it much more attractive for the public.

5.- High level of coverage of the population it is aimed at.

It has a high level of coverage of the population since it is situated right in the centre of town of Arnedo, potentially making a connection to the whole population of the town, through a natural route running parallel to and in connection with the River Cidacos.

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

The criterion of environmental sustainability is included in each of the interventions contained in the operation considered. In the project a section is included on the environmental repercussions of the work, in which it is established that there must not be any during the period of execution.

In addition, in the project the contractor has had to accept a series of environment and sustainability related responsibilities. This document must be complied with by the contractor during the execution of the work.

The tender process for the contract has been an open procedure in which numerous companies have bid with equal opportunities and no form of discrimination in accordance with the requirements established in the regulations for public contracts.



7.- Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention.

The public footpaths of which the Vías Verdes form a part, require continuous maintenance to guarantee that the infrastructure is kept in good condition and can be followed along the whole of the route by the general public. This involves contracting various actions throughout the year, such as clearing away scrub, pruning the vegetation and all the general maintenance tasks or replacing furniture (benches, tables, etc.) associated with the path, the signposts and the information and interpretation panels.

All of these projects for improving and maintaining green pathways have the economic backing of EAFRD funds, as part of their line of support and investments for small scale construction, improvement and maintenance of infrastructures for recreational and tourist use.





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