

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

SKATE BOWL AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS PARK  
Quart de Poblet city council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2019

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**



## Good practice: SKATE BOWL AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS PARK

The good practice consists of building a new recreational sports park: Skate Park. This facility is conceived as a place for meeting and socialisation for youth in the town of Quart de Poblet. It forms part of a wider project for a Municipal Recreational Sports Park, the first phase of which included a green zone, athletics track, children's playground and bio-health fitness area (for elderly people). The second phase will create a park area with a green space and a skate park. The operation has the goal of creating a park and skate park on an unused lot, on degraded land on the industrial outskirts to convert it into an open-air sports facility.

This intervention aims for comprehensive urban regeneration, in a degraded urban area located on Quart's urban-industrial outskirts with a land area of 2,054 m<sup>2</sup>, thereby contributing to sports and social development. This operation sets up a recreation and meeting space revolving around sports, encouraging social movement and participation. The plan is to create a sports park designed with specific areas both for professionals and for those just starting to learn this sporting discipline, ensuring coexistence in safety and harmony.

The intervention has an eligible budget for the operation of €391,764, while European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aid is €195,882. It is estimated the operation will have an impact on the entire Quart de Poblet municipal area and more specifically, the Rio Turia neighbourhood, where the intervention is located. An estimated population of 10,471 people may be able to use this recreational park.



Construction of the skate park is considered good practice because it fulfils the criteria established to that effect:

### 1. THE ERDF'S ROLE IN THE INTERVENTION WAS APPROPRIATELY CIRCULATED AMONGST BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

The skate park has been well publicised from its planning through to the works and inauguration.

The regulation sign was erected during works execution along with the corresponding plaque, and the notice published on the specific section of the member state's unique municipal web portal.



SIGN AT THE WORKS



UNIQUE MUNICIPAL WEB PORTAL

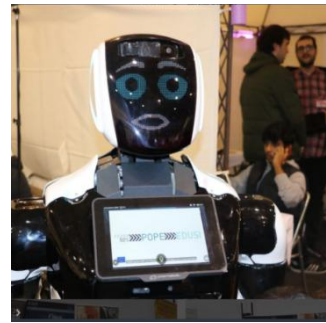


PERMANENT PLAQUE

Insofar as complementary communications go, the activity was publicised prior to opening. The event, branded “Fira de Nadal” (Christmas Fair), was open to the entire population and attended by around 2,000 people, offering activities aimed at the general public. The *Skate Park* video was installed on the screen of the robot Bibot, one of the event’s main attractions, giving information on the operation and operational programme.



*Robot playing the Skate Park promotional video*



*Giving information on the ERDF’s co-financing*

Some information panels were likewise erected, outlining Spain’s Integrated Sustainable Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI) and the operations which the ERDF funds. Promotional caps (merchandising) were distributed, all of them bearing the regulation logos.

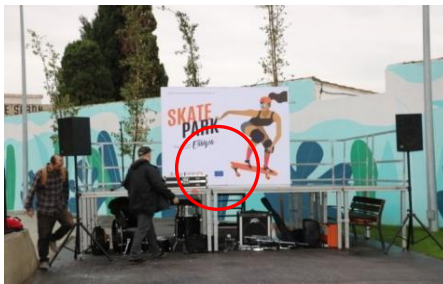


*ERDF-EDUSI Stand*



*Promotional skate caps*

At the Skate Park opening event, a promotional activity was run for all residents. During the opening a stage was erected with an off-stage area. Information leaflets on the project were distributed, describing the ERDF which co-financed the operation.



*Opening stage*



*Information leaflet*

The news was published on social media, on the Town Council’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, publicising the operation and highlighting the ERDF’s role:



A promotional video on the *Skate Park* was also published and publicised on the Youtube channel, giving news on the operation undertaken and ERDF co-financing.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTNd7QJppdQ>



In this range of complementary publicity actions we can highlight publications taken out in printed communications media, such as the Town Council's *El Fanalet* and private media like *Levante EMV* and *El Meridiano L'Horta*.

Furthermore, in order to attract youth, three free courses for children and adolescents were run with the goal of publicising the project and encouraging the facility's use. These courses further publicised the intervention's co-financing and the ERDF's role in making this and other of the town's projects possible. The importance of generating spaces in degraded areas was explained, along with the significance of the funding while teaching girls and boys how important egalitarian sport is.

## 2. THE INTERVENTION INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.

The innovative nature of the intervention rests on two fundamentals: firstly participation of youth in decision-making, and secondly the participation of users in the tasks of creating the skate park.

From the participatory viewpoint, the skate park project's impetus had a differentiating, innovative element, since it originated from a request to the municipal government team by two collectives for civic participation and representation: the Children's Municipal Council (this is the town's participatory body for children and adolescents, elected by school students) and a group of young people from within the Casas de Juventud (Youth Centres), a part of the network of local associations. The participatory councils are important for the town, and it has been extremely positive to hear the voices of youth and children, while being an inclusive, egalitarian initiative.

Another innovative element, from the viewpoint of works, design and construction of this new municipal sports facility is the participation and input of professional skaters, so that the most innovative elements have been applied to this skate park, facilitating this sport, taken from other skate parks in existence throughout Spain and beyond. This involvement in the works has been highly constructive, since it has enabled users to design aspects of the park, making it more functional and enjoyable. Certain interventions within the project, such as polishing the skate bowl, were undertaken manually, thereby ensuring perfect smoothness and enabling a more personal design.

## 3. MATCHING RESULTS OBTAINED TO THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES

The skate park is located on the border between the urban residential and industrial zones on the town's southern outskirts. The development was undertaken on an unused lot that was considerably degraded. So the operation represents a key intervention in creating public spaces for coexistence. This space, on unused, degraded land, has become a space to relate through sports. Furthermore, it has raised the quality of the urban outskirts, softening the transition between residential and industrial zones.

The matching of the results obtained to the established goals is reflected in the high use that the facility is having, which has been shown to respond to the goal that it could be used both by professional skaters and people who are learning.

It is likewise important to highlight that the Spanish Skating Federation asked to use it, just a few days after opening, to hold a national championship, which signifies extraordinary publicity for the skate park. Many experts have emphasised the facility's ideal design along with the safety it offers. Here we copy a link to a video that illustrates this:

Link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9OtzY5vFUM&t=571s>

*On 1 December 2018, the final of the II National Skateboarding Circuit organised by the Royal Spanish Skateboarding Federation (RFEP) was held in Quart de Poblet Skate Park, Valencia, Spain.*

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

The skate park was built on land owned by the town, located on the border between the urban centre and the industrial zone, next to the Municipal Cemetery, which was unused and degraded, so a double objective has been achieved. Firstly, put this land to sustainable use, recovering it for residents' use and enjoyment while encouraging the practice of sports as a healthy activity, as well as creating a quality space for coexistence on the urban outskirts. Secondly, respond to a residents' demand regarding a lack of this type of facility, expressed in this instance fundamentally by the child and adolescent population.

#### 5. HIGH DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE POPULATION AT WHOM IT IS AIMED.

The skate bowl is used by around 100 people a day during the week, as well as their friends. This figure triples during weekends. It is not only used by Quart de Poblet residents from throughout the municipality but has also attracted skaters to the town from nearby and even from other towns both in Valencia and other Spanish autonomous communities, who visit it.

The number of potential users of the skate park is situated at around 5,000 people who, until now, did not have access to a public space that ensured they could practise this sport. Nevertheless, the sports complex of which it forms part provides new service that covers the residents in this area, around 9,500 people, but also the town's entire population, of around 24,500 people.

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

Skateboarding is a predominantly male sports practice, though this trend is changing, and it is culturally associated with male youth. With the aim of reversing this reality and encouraging increasing numbers of women into this sport, it was decided that the image on all digital and print banners, leaflets and adverts in the advertising campaign to launch this facility should be a female skater.



*Promotional poster depicting a female skater as its protagonist*

Both in the signage and publicity of this operation, non-sexist language was used.

So that the skate bowl might be enjoyed by the general population with no barriers of any kind, the Town Council has included it within its park network with fixed public opening hours, without setting usage quotas or any other element that could hinder access to specific collectives. Through free courses it was sought to enable learning of this sport and do so safely, teaching users about good practices and the value of caring for a public facility, which furthermore fulfils accessibility conditions for people with physical functional diversity or reduced mobility.

The project seeks social cohesion and to reinforce municipal intergenerational programmes. Since the skate park is sited next to petanque *terrains*, a bio-health fitness area, a calisthenics area and a children's playground, it encourages the entire family to use the same complex for sports activities.

The skate park also reserves a space with trees and vegetation, introducing green elements to an industrial zone, located on the town's outskirts and highly developed. The LED lighting is energy-efficient.

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

Municipal investments have been made using the town's own funds and subsidies from other government administrations to create public spaces from unused degraded land on the industrial outskirts.

Accordingly, construction of the skate park forms part of the second phase of the global project Sports Centre and Recreational Park, the first phase of which was construction of an athletics track, the children's playground and the bio-health games area. It was subsidised by the Valencia Provincial Council, so that this good practice reinforces the first intervention and boosts its positive aspects.



*Sports park: an intervention initiated by the Residents' Children's and Youth Sports Council. To the left, the first phase of execution using own and Valencia Provincial Council funds. To the right, facilities funded by the ERDF.*



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