

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

NEW ENERGETICALLY EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS IN THE CITY OF GIJÓN

Ministry of Finance and Public Sector of the Principality of Asturias.

**Programa Operativo  
del Principado de Asturias**

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**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**



## **NEW ENERGETICALLY EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF ASTURIAS IN THE CITY OF GIJÓN**

The project consists of the rehabilitation of the property that housed the old Poniente courts in Gijón to turn it into a modern, energy-efficient building, which is to be the new headquarters for the different offices that the Government of the Principality of Asturias had scattered throughout the city.

The property has a total constructed area of approximately 6,500 square meters, with three streets façade and occupies almost the entire plot, except for the exterior access on the east façade. It is made up of a basement that will serve as archives and warehouse, and six floors above ground with a rectangular shape. It also has an attic, which will function as a multipurpose space.

The distribution of the different services along the six floors that integrate the building is made mainly taking into account the circulation flows generated by each of them. Thus, the services with the highest number of visitors will be located on the lower floors, while the upper floors will be allocated to the offices with a more moderate demand.



It is an action, carried out by the Ministry of Finance and Public Sector of the Principality of Asturias with an eligible cost of 2,849,764 euros and a percentage of co-financing of 80% by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), it is framed within the Operational Program of the ERDF of Asturias 2014-2020.

With the new facilities, and about the old building, there will be a decrease in the annual consumption of primary energy of 978,856.49 KWh / year and a reduction of 143.65 tons per year in CO2 emissions.

The arguments that make this project be considered as Good Practice are presented below, in accordance with the established criteria.

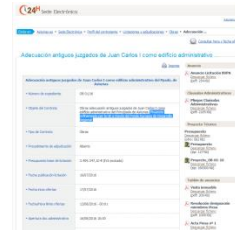
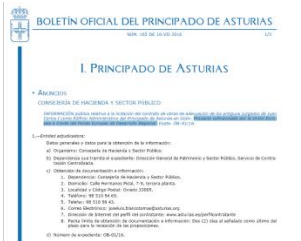
### High dissemination among beneficiaries and the general public

Within the framework of compliance with the objectives of the Communication Strategy of the ERDF OP, information and communication have been a fundamental element in the building's rehabilitation process, in order to guarantee increased public awareness of the added value of community co-financing.

The regulatory requirements regarding communication have been complied with the poster during the execution of the works and the subsequent placement of the permanent plaque, and the contribution of the European Regional Development Fund has been recorded through different actions of communication.



During the process of bidding and execution of the project, the information on the ERDF co-financing has been included both on the website of the Ministry and in the contracting file and in all the documentation relating to it.



Press releases have been published on the Principality of Asturias website, announcing the development of the works as well as their co-financing by the ERDF:



In this sense, and as a consequence of these releases, the information on the progress of the project has been reflected in the regional press, both in its traditional and in its "online" versions, from the beginning to the end of the construction process and , always emphasizing the involvement of the ERDF.



The infrastructure was presented in an advertorial broadcast by Radio Televisión del Principado de Asturias (RTPA), reflecting the impact of the ERDF on the action.



On the other hand, on February 23, 2019, an open-door information day was held, attended by both local representatives and citizens. The technical team that led the execution of the project reported on the new characteristics of the building in terms of energy efficiency, mentioning the importance of the contribution of the European Union, through the ERDF, in financing the new and fundamental infrastructure for the city of Gijón.





Another means of dissemination has been the file on the information system of co-financed projects, collected on the website of the Ministry's website, which collects the general data of the project, the co-financing of the ERDF, the cost and even images of the project.



## **The performance incorporates innovative elements**

With the renovation of the old courts of Gijón, built in the nineties, it has been sought to improve the characteristics of the building and adapt it to the needs of the present for administrative use.

The main innovative element is that it is the rehabilitation of a building carried out primarily from an energy optimization, isolating the interior of the envelope and placing low-emissivity glass on the north facade.

In addition, the architectural solution has allowed the execution of different angles and geometric shapes that allow a great use of natural light inside the building. Prisms with holes embedded in the new slab serve to bring natural light from the skylight, located on the roof, to the lower floors. Through this unique mechanism, together with the large windows on the facades, a very bright building is achieved.

This allows a combination of natural and artificial light, as well as a maximum use of the natural light coming from the windows and the longitudinal skylight of the roof of the current

configuration of the building. In addition, artificial lighting will be very low consumption and low heat emission.



It is also innovative that it is a very safe office in case of fire in terms of the conditions of eviction of users and occupants, with stairs specially protected by independent lobbies, one of them with direct exit to the outside, as well as fire retardant protection. of the structure and easy access for firefighters.

On the other hand, noise insulation has been taken into account, with a specific intervention on the facades and an acoustically absorbent false ceiling, all in order to improve protection against noise, both inside and outside. The installed sound absorbing ceiling optimizes the acoustic behavior of the rooms, while improving the quality of the indoor air.

### **Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives**

The main objective of the refurbishment of this building has been to achieve an improvement in the attention of administrative public services to the citizens of Gijón. For this, it was proposed to group together in a single headquarters several of the services of the Administration of the Principality of Asturias that were, until that moment, dispersed in different locations in the city.



In its design, in addition, the Principality of Asturias proposes the improvement of the energy efficiency of the building, with the aim of reducing energy consumption and reducing its carbon footprint and environmental impact.



The action meets the established objectives, while citizens benefit from the improvement in services and administrative resources that their grouping in a single and wider location in the city implies, resulting in a clear saving of costs and time of the steps to be taken and ultimately improving the quality of life of citizens.

The results obtained with the action to improve the air conditioning also represent progress in energy quality and efficiency, since the use of the building is made more profitable by reducing its maintenance costs (the estimated saving in electrical energy would amount to 80,000 euros /year).

## **Contribution to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness**

This new infrastructure aims to respond to the need to provide quality public services in Gijón, the urban center with the largest population in Asturias.

The property, after its deep interior reform, houses seven regional services that were scattered throughout the city. This location in a single location guarantees greater comfort for citizens, since it avoids unnecessary transfers within the city, making it possible to carry out a plurality of procedures in the same place.



In addition, this unique facility promotes the revitalization of the Poniente area, given that it is part of the macro project for the comprehensive recovery of the coastal strip of the western area of the city for public use, a project that, starting from a degraded industrial area, incorporates the new great beach and other facilities such as the Railway Museum and the Gijón Aquarium.

### **High degree of coverage of the target population**

The universality of this measure means that the entire population of Gijón benefits from the effects of the entry into operation of a more open, safe and energy efficient administrative building.

After the comprehensive adaptation of the building, the seven ministries located in it will be able to offer a better service, in a more efficient space and with better conditions both for the 152 people who will work in it daily and for the 130,000 citizens who will use it annually.

### **Consideration of the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability**

The design of the building configures it as an accessible and adapted office, which allows people with reduced mobility and communication, access and circulation in the terms provided in its specific regulations.

On the other hand, it is in line with the gender perspective, helping to improve the quality of life of women in the sense that the proximity of services is given priority over dispersal and remoteness, which facilitates the reconciliation of family responsibilities with the development of women's professional work.

Likewise, in the adaptation works of this building, its integration into the environment and the criteria of environmental sustainability have been taken into account. It allows a great use of natural light and a reduction in energy consumption, through the application of energy efficiency principles in the choice of construction systems, the orientation study of the property, etc.

To this must be added the value of the investment in terms of greater awareness and sensitization of the personnel working in these facilities, as well as the improvement of the perception, by the general population, of the public administration's commitment to sustainability.

### **Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention**

This action is complemented by other investments carried out by the Principality of Asturias in Gijón, and comes to suppose, in general, a considerable improvement in the lives of the citizens and, in particular, an opportunity to promote the economic development of this area from the city.



Specifically, this renovation allows for a more open and secure building that is highly energy efficient, which is in coherence with the Spanish Strategy for Climate Change and Clean Energy, horizon 2007-2012-2020, and with the National Action Plan for Renewable Energies of Spain 2011-2020, approved within the framework of the European Directive on Renewable Energies.

The synergies with the European Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change are also very clear, insofar as it is an action aligned with the objectives established in Horizon 2020 for the EU as a whole: reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% with compared to 1990 and ensure that 20% of total energy consumption comes from renewable energies.

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