

GOOD PRACTICE REPORT: “BIKE LANES CONNECTING ÁGUILAS WITH THE SPORTS AREA AND THE URBAN AREA OF CALABARDINA”

The City of Águilas presents as good practice the following action: “BIKE LANES CONNECTING ÁGUILAS WITH THE SPORTS AREA AND THE URBAN AREA OF CALABARDINA”.

It consists in the construction of bike lanes to expand the junction of the Calabardina urban area with the perimeter bike lane, connecting the second most populated community of the municipality, as well as the main sports and industrial areas.

For this purpose, a cycling road with a paved width of 3.50 meters has been constructed, of which 2.30 meters are for bicycles and 1.20 meters for pedestrian traffic. It is located between the 0.025 and 0.923 km markers alongside the RM-D15 road. Also, a bike lane has been constructed between the urban centre of Águilas and the sports and industrial areas, with the aim of reducing road traffic.



Bike lane to Calabardina and entrance to Águilas through the Lorca Road.

In short, the construction of bike lanes meets the objectives of reducing the number of trips by private vehicle, increasing the use of non-motorized means of transport, and reducing pollution and traffic congestion.

The works are part of an action included in the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, and has entailed €484,376.57 of total cost, with 80 % co-financing by the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** (€387,501.25).

Criteria met to be considered good practice

This action is considered good practice because it meets the following criteria:

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

Dissemination obligations have been met through a communication campaign created to maximize the effects of ERDF support in the city, as set out in the communication study.

In relation to **compulsory communication**, it was mentioned that the contract was 80 % co-financed by the ERDF in the following media: the Spanish State Contracting Platform, the announcement of the project, the technical and administrative contracting specifications and the

list of co-financed contracts that is published periodically on the website of the Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI) *Águilas SOSostenible*.

[Public Sector Contracting Platform \(contrataciondelestado.es\)](http://contrataciondelestado.es)

[Public Sector Contracting Platform \(contrataciondelestado.es\)](http://contrataciondelestado.es)

[Contracting – EDUSI Águilas Sostenible \(eidusaguilas.es\)](http://eidusaguilas.es)

During the execution of the works, a **temporary road sign** was placed. It presented the name, context, and budget of the action, as well as the municipal and ERDF co-financing. At the end of the works, a **permanent plate** was installed to show the name, context, and objective of the action.



Temporary road signs for the Calabardina and entrance to Águilas construction works.



Permanent plate for the Calabardina section.



Permanent plate for the entrance to Águilas section.

On the other hand, regarding **complementary communication**, an English-subtitled **video** was prepared along with a **short video** to be posted in social networks, in which the impact of the actions is presented.

Both videos have been published on the municipal website and on the YouTube account of the City of Águilas:

Full video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TWATMu5SvU&t=102s>

Short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCV4ce3bAbU>

The action has been disseminated through press releases published on the **City of Águilas** and **EDUSI Águilas SOSostenible** websites:

[Águilas City Council \(ayuntamientodeaguilas.org\)](http://ayuntamientodeaguilas.org)
[Águilas City Council \(ayuntamientodeaguilas.org\)](http://ayuntamientodeaguilas.org)

Several media have also reported on the progress of the action, both in written and audiovisual format:

[New section of the Águilas-Calabardina bike lane – YouTube](#)
[ÁGUILAS / The new bicycle and pedestrian road will improve the image of the municipality access – murcia.com](#)
[The bike lane under construction will connect the town of Águilas with the cycle path that surrounds the city | La Verdad](#)
[310,000 euros contract awarded for the bike-pedestrian lane from the entrance of Águilas to the Shield roundabout – La Actualidad \(la-actualidad.com\)](#)

Likewise, the press office of the City Council has contributed to dissemination through several **radio** spots broadcast on the *Cope* station:

<https://acortar.link/TutyQr>

In March 2023, a **community event** was held on the street to raise awareness on the new bike lanes. It was advertised in different media, social networks and the local station *Que! Radio Águilas*. During the event, the permanent plate installed on the last of the bike lanes was unveiled and the *promotional gifts* created for the occasion were distributed.



Dissemination of the community event in media and social networks



Community event: some participants; distributed goodies

In short, an intense work of action dissemination has been carried out, highlighting that it has been co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund at 80 %, within the framework of the Spanish Multiregional Operational Program (POPE) 2014-2020.

2. The action includes innovative elements.

The action is clearly innovative, since there was no connection through bike lanes between the city, the urban area of Calabardina and the main sports facilities of Águilas. Thanks to the new infrastructure, the city moves towards an innovative model of soft mobility, through bicycle or on foot, which reflects the commitment of the municipality as a member of the network “Cities that walk” .

In addition, the design and construction of the bike lanes incorporate innovative elements, such as the installation over the entire lane of solar led street lamps, equipped with solar panel and integrated battery. This equipment contributes to environment improvement by reducing energy consumption and providing lighting along the bike lanes in a more sustainable and economical way.

3. The results meet the objectives.

The main objective of this action was to expand the network connecting different points of the municipality with bike lanes to promote its use and the concept of soft mobility among citizens, as well as achieving a cleaner and more sustainable economy.

The action allows the city to be interconnected in a safe and sustainable way, by linking the population centre of Calabardina with the urban area of Águilas, in addition to the housing estates between them (Los Collados, Los Geráneos, Isla del Fraile Resort and Todosol), the sports facilities and the industrial area. Therefore, the objectives are achieved, such as reducing the number of trips by private vehicle in the urban area, increasing the use of non-motorized means of transport, as well as reducing pollution and traffic congestion.

Moreover, and despite not being its main purpose, the creation of bike lanes also promotes the practice of a beneficial activity, which combats unhealthy habits, especially among the younger population. Thus, the action contributes to their well-being and personal development.

4. Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the territory of execution.

In the municipality of Águilas, sustainable urban mobility was underdeveloped, as the existing bike lanes were scarce and, in some cases, not fully operational. With this action, the number of kilometres of cycling infrastructure in the municipality increases, and above all the cycling connection between the two main population centres is completed.

In addition, there was a great dependence on private transport, therefore, it was necessary to make safe alternatives available to reduce the number of trips by private vehicle and promote other less polluting means of transport, such as cycling or walking.

The use of bicycles as a means of transportation has experienced a significant increase in recent years in Spain. The creation of the bike lanes satisfies a demand from both the citizens of Águilas and foreign visitors.

Likewise, the action improves the safety of cyclists and reduces the risk of accidents, since they will no longer have to share the road with motor vehicles.

5. High coverage of the target population.

The characteristics of Águilas, a coastal city with good weather, make it an ideal place to travel either by bicycle or on foot. Therefore, this action is beneficial both for the local population and all the visitors of the city throughout the year, that is, an estimate of 90,000 people.

The citizens of Águilas and their visitors gain in safety by having sections reserved for bicycles that are signposted and protected from road traffic. This action has an especially positive impact on the population of Calabardina, which until now only had a connection with the urban centre of Águilas by road, and on the users of the sports facilities and the industrial estate, who will be able to access them safely through the new section of bike lane.

Beyond bike users, the action benefits the entire Águilas community, by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and improving air quality thanks to an increase in trips by this non-polluting transportation mean.

6. Considering the horizontal criteria of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

In the construction of the two sections of the bike lane, the horizontal criteria of equal opportunity and non-discrimination were considered, since the action is aimed at all citizens, and allows the city to be interconnected in a simple way with the adjacent urban centres, which are very close to the city, as is the case of Calabardina. This action especially benefits women, since they mostly travel on foot and by bicycle (56 %), exceeding men by 9 % (47 % of men use these transportation means) according to data from the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Águilas.

Regarding social responsibility, the new bike lanes improve the quality of life of the population and their health, as they help reduce pollution, problems arising from traffic congestion and encourage the practice of physical exercise in their daily commutes.

The expansion of the cycling network also benefits people with fewer economic resources. These people will be able to move without having to rely on a motor vehicle, with the cost that this type of transportation entails.

Likewise, environmental sustainability criteria have been taken into consideration, since one of the main objectives of the construction of the bike lanes was to promote the use of sustainable means of transport, which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The effect on the environment is also measured in the reduction of noise pollution. Having a network of bike lanes with new connections makes cycling mobility gain ground over road traffic, the cause of more than 80 % of the noise pollution in Spanish cities. The improvement of air quality, together with the reduction of noise sources, benefit the health of the population, which is also reinforced by the increased use of bicycles, which promotes physical activity and a healthier lifestyle.

7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments.

The promotion of mobility by bicycle and on foot is one of the main objectives of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Águilas.

Among the public intervention policies that interact with the action described here, creating synergies that enhance or intensify their results, it is worth highlighting the pedestrianization of streets in the city centre, in particular, Conde de Aranda and Juan Pablo I, an action also included in the “Sustainable Mobility” operation of the *Águilas Sostenible* strategy.

The Skate Park created in the municipal sports area through the “Youth Sustainability and Equal Opportunities” operation of the EDUSI, as well as the indoor swimming pool of the sports centre, energy renovated through the “Energy Sustainability of Municipal Buildings and Facilities” operation, will benefit from the creation of these connections, allowing its users to access them without the need to use their private vehicles.

This action has been designed, as is the case for all related to mobility, taking into consideration the Sustainable Mobility Plan (PMUS) and the General Urban Planning Plan (PGOU) of Águilas, as well as the priorities of the Urban Agenda Águilas 2030, currently under development.

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BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional