

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Accessibility improvement and change of urban furniture on Campo and Federico García Lorca Streets

Almansa City Council

**Programa Operativo
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

GOOD PRACTICE: ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENT AND CHANGE OF URBAN FURNITURE ON CAMPO AND FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA STREETS

ALMANSA TOWN HALL (ALBACETE)

Action promoted by Almansa City Council has consisted of improving accessibility and changing street furniture on Campo and Federico García Lorca streets.

This action was aimed at improving the urban environment, specifically on Campo and Federico García Lorca streets and adjacent areas. On Campo Street, several urban designs have been proposed to be executed from a single level platform at the sidewalks height. And on Federico García Lorca Street, the placement of pedestrian crossings at the level of the cobblestone sidewalks has been planned.

More specifically, the works cover Campo street (from its meeting with Aniceto Coloma street to the corner of San José street), San Luis street (from its meeting with del Campo street to Arcipreste de Hita street at the height of the school Duque de Alba), Federico García Lorca street (section between Campo street and Aniceto Coloma street) and Duque de la Victoria street (sidewalk on the left).

Both streets, Campo and Federico García Lorca, are downtown. Campo is an emblematic street and one of the main paths at commercial area. This street is surrounded by shops, restaurants and other commercial establishments. For its part, Federico García Lorca street is known for its vibrant and lively atmosphere. It is a pedestrian street that houses a wide variety of shops, bars and cafes. The architecture of its buildings varies from historic structures to modern facades. Both streets are of great importance for the city, which is why they translate into priority areas for action.

The objective of this action on both streets was to revitalize the city, as well as introduce improvements at urban environment.

Total action cost has been 795,746 euros, of which 80% has been co-financed by the European Union thanks to the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER): 636,597 euros.



1. Role of FEDER in this action has been appropriately disseminated among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and general public.

Actions to communicate this operation have been:

Permanent plate:



Micro-video for social networks:



[LINK AL VÍDEO](#)

Action has its own website section:

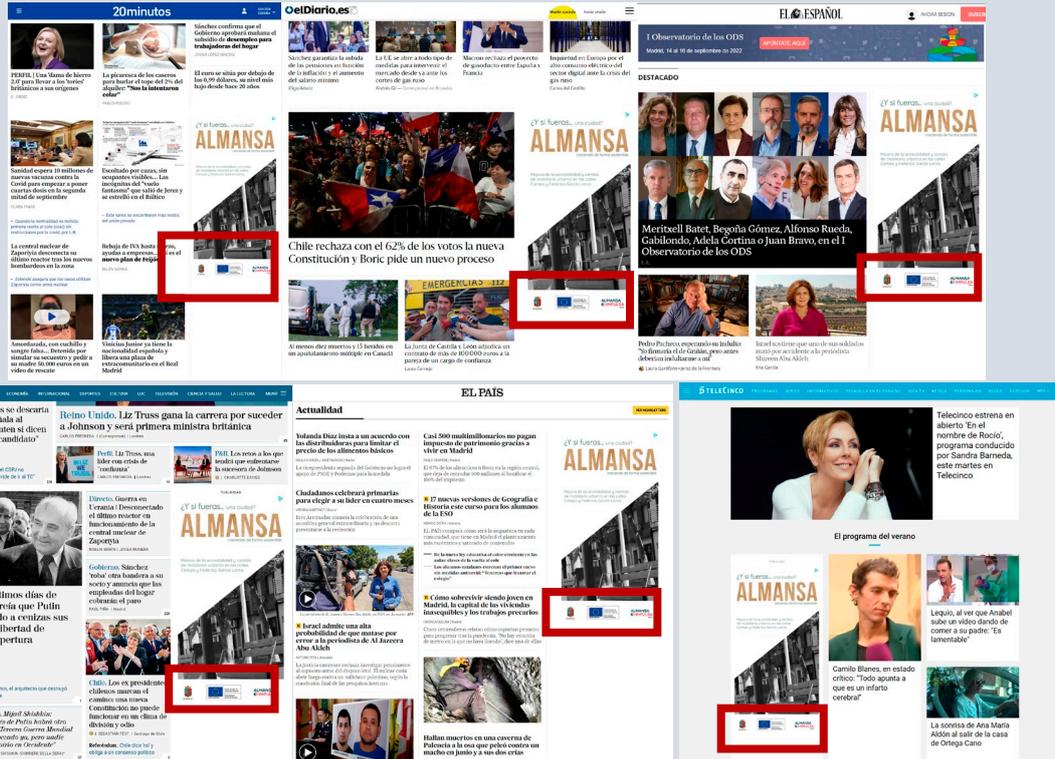


Local press Ad:



Regional and national on line press ads:

Among all the online news media used, a total of 23,052 impressions have been reached during the month of September 2022



2. Action incorporates innovative elements

Action incorporates innovative elements focused on improving all people inclusion so that benefits are generated for everyone. This has also extended to business community that has benefited traffic increase on these two very central and important streets.

One of the approaches that have been adopted during the action has been universal design, since it has sought to create an urban environment that is enjoyable and passable by as many people as possible. This has involved incorporating features and design elements that ensure accessibility for people with different skills and abilities.

3. Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives:

DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy included among its objectives the improvement of the urban environment and public space revitalization. In line with this objective, line of action A6 proposed a Plan for the integrated environmental improvement of collective urban spaces. Development of the action

presented here has made it possible to contribute to the achievement of the stated objectives and in fact has made it possible to generate a wide range of benefits. Some of the benefits obtained from improving accessibility and renewal of street furniture are the following:

1. A more accessible city facilitates movement and promotes mobility for people with disabilities since it allows people with reduced mobility to move autonomously and safely.
2. Taking into account that the action has taken place in two very dynamic streets, the improvements made can also generate a series of economic benefits for companies located there by being able to serve a greater number of potential customers. Likewise, better accessibility encourages accessible tourism, attracting more visitors.
3. City public image has also been improved. A city that cares about accessibility transmits a message of openness, inclusion and care towards all people. This has improved the city reputation and has managed to attract both residents and visitors. A beautified city: taking care of urban furniture generates a feeling of belonging while improving the city image.
4. A more comfortable and friendly city: The improvement of street furniture in Almansa provides greater comfort and convenience to citizens. Design and strategic placement of new street furniture allows people to rest, wait or socialize while walking through the city.
5. A safer city: Accessibility and urban furniture improvement has also had a positive impact on safety, since it promotes a safer environment for all citizens.

4. Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness detected in the territorial scope of execution:

Since DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy design, a series of clear challenges were outlined to be addressed in the following years. One of the challenges was to reduce the deficiencies of urban framework in terms of mobility, equipment, green areas and accessibility.

In this sense, DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy projected that urban quality and opportunities offered by the city should be guaranteed thanks to city transformation into a friendly and healthy environment for citizens and companies. Therefore, a clear challenge was to improve the urban environment and revitalize public space.

Likewise, from Strategy design, a series of problems and needs related to the urban environment were identified. One of the problems was directly related to city accessibility. Almansa has gone through several expansive periods throughout the 20th century, in which it has been built with very little planning, giving rise to very dense residential areas, with narrow and irregular streets, and with little surface area for facilities or green areas. Although road traffic is not very intense in these areas, the streets have accessibility deficiencies with very narrow sidewalks, including Campo and Federico García Lorca streets. Derived from this starting situation, some city areas are suffering of low commercial density.

For its part, commerce in Almansa is centralized at downtown area, also called “commercial area.” This area did not have a continuous connection with old town, which was necessary to improve as it had a direct impact on tourism sector and quality of life for people residing in oldest areas of Almansa.

A series of city positive aspects were also detected that needed to be taken into account during the DUSI Strategy preparation and that have positively conditioned the action presented here. Almansa is a healthy city where most of the trips are made on foot, therefore, the action carried out on Campo and Federico García Lorca streets has had a very positive impact because a high number of people walk on foot these two main routes. Another clear benefit of the action is related to the business fabric that exists in the area where the action takes place. Services, and in particular commerce, are one of the few activities that are

growing, partly because they are sectors to which most of the new entrepreneurial initiatives are dedicated. Therefore, an action like the one presented here has generated a positive impact on both streets commercial fabric.

5. Target population high coverage:

With accessibility improvement and change of urban furniture on Campo and Federico García Lorca streets, it has been possible to have a better urban environment both in its environmental, landscape and urban dimension, improving the well-being of the entire population, 24,224 people, of residents in the intervention area, as well as the rest of city residents who daily pass through these streets and go to places of work, shopping and leisure as they are two of the main city activity centers.

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

This action clearly takes into consideration horizontal criteria such as inclusion and equity, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, social responsibility and, of course, environmental sustainability.

Regarding criterion of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, this action has been designed to promote equality between men and women, as well as to avoid any type of discrimination, whether based on sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation. Improvements in accessibility such as those made by this action help to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities by allowing them to access essential services such as public buildings, health centers, parks, shops or restaurants.

Regarding criterion of social responsibility, Almansa City Council has materialized its commitment to the citizens of Almansa by addressing basic and fundamental needs such as improving accessibility or changing street furniture in two of its most central and active streets.

Finally, in terms of environmental sustainability, this action respects the principle of sustainable development, as well as promoting conservation, protection and improvement of urban environment quality and green areas.

7. Action has synergies with other public intervention policies and instruments

This action presents important synergies with “Neighborhood Plan of the city of Almansa” which is aimed at improving the urban environment in its environmental, landscape and urban dimension. This Neighborhood Plan makes up a series of actions in all city areas. One of these actions has been presented in this good practice.

Likewise, this action is part of the “Plan for the comprehensive environmental improvement of collective urban spaces” included in the DUSI Almansa Impulsa Strategy.

More broadly, in recent years, Almansa City Council has carried out different actions to improve the urban environment that may have synergies with this action, such as the change of luminaires for LED lights in the sports facilities of the sports city complex, or for example, the renewal of public lighting in different parts of the city.

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