

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Installation of walkways, toilets and footbaths, and reconditioning of the urban beaches. EDUSI Sustainable Águilas

Águilas City Council

**Programa Operativo
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

GOOD PRACTICE REPORT, CIUDAD DE ÁGUILAS: INSTALLATION OF WALKWAYS, TOILETS AND FOOTBATH AREAS AND RECONDITIONING OF ÁGUILAS' URBAN BEACHES

Águilas presents as good practice the action “Installation of walkways, toilets and footbaths, and reconditioning of the urban beaches of Águilas”.

A good practice consists of the supply and installation of equipment on the beaches of La Carolina, La Higuera, Calarreona, Casica Verde, Poniente, La Colonia, Levante, Las Delicias, Hornillo and Calabardina; with the aim of providing quality beaches that respect the environment to visitors and residents, while also offering services for their comfort and hygiene. It should be noted that the refurbishment measures have included infrastructure to improve accessibility to beaches for people with reduced mobility.



Figure 1. Aerial photography of Playa de la Colonia

In detail, this action includes:

- Assembling articulated wooden walkways to access the beach through the dunes and the vegetation situated between the road and the sand.
- Placement of wooden rolling walkways, which complete the access routes to the shore, thus allowing people with reduced mobility to enjoy the beach. These walkways are of a temporary nature and will be withdrawn once the summer season has ended.
- Renovation of existing footbaths on beaches where the influx of people has increased. These elements have been placed on draining plates of precast concrete, able to filter excess water and preventing the proliferation of algae and other microorganisms. In the Playa de la Colonia and in the Delicias beach, the footbaths were installed on buried prefabricated concrete filter wells, with greater capacity than the above-mentioned draining plates.
- Demolition of masonry factory low walls delimiting the footbaths of the beach of Colonia, for the construction of a new platform including an access staircase, with stainless steel railing.

- Purchase of an amphibious chair, which enables moving people with reduced mobility from the end of the roller walkways to the water. These chairs have wheels to move through sand, both on the surface and underwater.
- Construction of toilets on the beach of Poniente II and on the beach of Colonia. These buildings have been located as close as possible to the promenades, between the active area and the delimitation marked by the Maritime Terrestrial Zone. These are two units equipped with three cabins each, for women, men and an accessible toilet. They are located on a wooden platform with enough space to ensure access. Also, each unit has an infrared presence detector for the lighting system.



Figure 2. Toilets installed in Poniente Beach



Figure 3. Picture of Playa de la Higuera

All the planned facilities are detachable so they do not affect the Natura 2000 sites of the beaches of La Carolina, La Higuera and Calarreona, located within the protected area of Cuatro Calas (with LIC condition (SiteCode: ES6200010) and the ENP of Cuatro Calas (SiteCode: ENP000007).

In addition, the installed elements comply with Order TMA/851/2021 of 23 July, which develops the technical document on basic conditions of accessibility and non-discrimination for access to and use of urbanised public spaces. It has also requested the administrative concession of occupation of the Maritime-terrestrial Public Domain, which on 14 July 2022 was granted by the General Directorate of the Coast and the Sea, by delegation of the Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge.

This operation is under thematic objective six (OT6: to protect the environment and promote resource efficiency) of the Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy (EDUSI) Sustainable City of Águilas; more specifically, the action is under its line of action four (LA04 Sustainability of cultural, tourist and urban beaches).

It is developed within the framework of the Sustainable City of Águilas EDUSI, through the Multiregional Operational Programme of Spain 2014-2020 and has a total budget of 379.990.86 euros, with an **80 % being co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which amounts to 303,992.69 EUR.**

WHY THIS ACTION IS CONSIDERED AS A GOOD PRACTICE

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

The aim of this dissemination is to let the beneficiaries and future users know about the initiative, carrying out actions planned in the communication study of EDUSI Sustainable City of Águilas, which was previously approved.

Regarding **the regulatory communication**, it has been published in the contractor's profile of Águilas City Council, and also in the list of co-financed contracts, periodically published on the EDUSI website. The actions are co-financed by the ERDF 80 % within the Multiregional Operational Programme of Spain 2014-2020.

Plataforma contratación: <https://cutt.ly/mwWByNBq>

<https://cutt.ly/swWBuCMc>

Web EDUSI <https://cutt.ly/JwWBovJf>

During the execution of the action, temporary posters related to the work carried out were installed on the beaches. Once the performance was finished, permanent plaques were placed on the site. Both elements highlighted the financing of the project by the ERDF Funds.

Se han realizado diversas publicaciones en la web de la EDUSI, así como, a través de las redes sociales:

Eidusaguilas.es: <https://cutt.ly/5wWBfurw>

Facebook: <https://cutt.ly/fwWBjqnm>



Figure 4. Temporary post



Figura 5. Permanent plaque

Various publications have been made on the EDUSI website, as well as through social networks:

Eidusaguilas.es: <https://cutt.ly/5wWBfurw>

Facebook: <https://cutt.ly/fwWBjqnm>

In terms of **complementary communication**, the traditional and digital media have echoed the evolutions of the action, reporting in the **press** that it belongs to the Sustainable Urban Development and Integrated Sustainable Águilas strategies and highlighting the co-financing by the European Regional Development Fund ERDF to 80 %.

Prensa local: Águilasnoticias.com: <https://cutt.ly/lwW3eDP5>

Prensa regional:

La verdad: <https://cutt.ly/BwW3rsKo>

Murcia.com: <https://cutt.ly/7wW3rnRX>

Press announcements have also been made about the action, both regionally (La Verdad newspaper) and local (La Actualidad newspaper):



El parque móvil de la Policía Local suma cuatro nuevos coches patrulla

El Consistorio pone en marcha los Presupuestos Participativos a través de los diferentes proyectos que presenten los colectivos municipales...

El Ayuntamiento destinará 100.000 euros a propuestas que presenten los vecinos

Los vecinos, colectivos y asociaciones que quieran expresar sus propuestas para la mejora del territorio, deberán rellenar un formulario...

ÁGUILAS RENUOVA LAS INFRAESTRUCTURAS DE SUS PLAYAS

Han sido implementadas por el Ayuntamiento de Águilas las obras de renovación de las infraestructuras de sus playas...



Me parece genial la inversión que se está realizando... con estas nuevas infraestructuras se garantiza la accesibilidad de las personas con movilidad reducida...

El municipio de Águilas mejora la accesibilidad a las playas con nuevas y mejores infraestructuras



El municipio de Águilas, con el apoyo del Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional, ha mejorado la accesibilidad a las playas...

EN PALABRAS DE LOS PROPIOS VECINOS. A grid of four small portraits and quotes from local residents: MARI CARMEN Y LOLI, MARIA JOSÉ LUCAS I., ANTONIO VALENZUELA, and DANIEL PÉREZ.

Figure 6. Publication in La Verdad newspaper

Figura 7. Publication in La Actualidad newspaper

2. The action incorporates innovative elements

The location of this action in a rich natural environment requires a careful and respectful intervention with the existing ecosystem, so that the functions of the organisms that inhabit it are not interrupted, which would produce a degradation of biodiversity and the landscape...

On the other hand, under the footbaths, systems have been put in place to facilitate the drainage of water in the natural soil. They are draining plates of precast concrete, which will filter the



Figure 8. Picture of a footbath near the Civil Guard Station

excess to the sand to avoid the formation of puddles on the surface, which can lead to the growth of infectious microorganisms. In the larger areas of footbaths, draining wells have been executed under the plates, with more filtering capacity.

Finally, it should be noted that the toilet modules are equipped with infrared sensors, to control the ignition of the interior luminaires, so that they are activated only when people enter the cabins. By doing this, saving in energy consumption will be achieved.



Figure 9. Pictures of the footbaths installed around auditorium area, Infanta Doña Elena Conference Centre Parra Promenade areas.

3. Alignment of the results obtained with the established objectives.

This intervention contributes to the conservation of Águilas's natural heritage by designing wooden walkways and other facilities that respect the natural environment. The walkways allow access to the beaches without damaging the dunes and surrounding vegetation, thus preserving the natural beauty of the place. This conservation of heritage is essential to maintain the authenticity and maritime character of the city.

In addition, it improves the tourist offer of Águilas by making the beaches more comfortable and accessible to local visitors and tourists. The facilities, such as the renovated footbaths and accessible walkways, enrich the beach experience. In turn, this attracts a wider audience and fosters a greater interest in the city's cultural and tourist activities.

The increase in influx contributes to the growth and development of the city, as it benefits the local economy by making it more welcoming and comfortable for all.

In addition, the project focuses on the preservation of natural heritage by integrating the facilities in a respectful manner with the environment, such as the strategic location of toilets and automatic lighting. This contributes to the valorisation of the natural heritage of Águilas.

4. Contribution to the resolution of a problem or weakness identified in the territorial scope of implementation.

The action has played a key role in solving the weaknesses identified in the urban and environmental settings of the beaches in Águilas.

It has allowed the urban beaches of Águilas to be better integrated into the city's fabric, creating an urban resource accessible to citizens. The installation of walkways has improved universal

accessibility, which means that all people, including those with reduced mobility, can enjoy the beaches. This has opened up new opportunities for local residents and visitors, encouraging the active participation of the community in the social life of the city.

The city, being coastal and housing several urban beaches, presents a unique geographical situation that allows its inhabitants to directly take advantage of these natural resources. The intervention has achieved this by implementing a series of small-scale tourism infrastructures that have transformed beaches for greater enjoyment not only by visitors, but also by local residents.



Figure 10. Picture before the intervention



Figure 11. Picture after the intervention

5. High degree of coverage on the population to which it is directed.

The action has achieved a high degree of coverage of the target population, which includes both local residents and visitors.

The installation of walkways has significantly improved the accessibility to the beaches. This ensures that all people, regardless of their mobility, can access and enjoy the beaches. This benefits both the local population (36 403 inhabitants in 2022, which triples in summer), who can enjoy the beaches of their city, as well as visitors who want to experience the natural



Figure 12. Picture of the urban beach Las Delicias

beauties of Águilas.

Beaches are commonly used public resources that are available to the entire population. By improving the quality and ease of access to these beaches, the intervention benefits a wide

spectrum of the population, from local families spending time on the beach to tourists visiting the city.

The action has focused on respecting the natural environment by conditioning the beaches in a sustainable way. This benefits the entire population, as it contributes to the conservation of the city's natural heritage and ensures that beaches remain a valuable resource for future generations. The improvement of the urban and environmental surroundings of the beaches has a direct impact on the quality of life of the local inhabitants. It provides leisure and recreation spaces that can be enjoyed by children, adults and seniors. This, in turn, promotes a healthy and active lifestyle.

In addition to benefiting the local population, the improvement of the beaches attracts a greater number of visitors, which contributes to the economic growth of the city. This can translate into more employment and economic opportunities for the local population.

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

The action reflects a strong commitment to the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, as well as social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

In terms of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, the intervention has been designed to be fully accessible. The installation of improved roller walkways and footbaths ensures that all people, including those with reduced mobility, have equal opportunities to enjoy the beaches of Águilas. The acquisition of an amphibious chair for the transfer of persons with reduced mobility is concrete evidence of the commitment to eliminate any form of discrimination. The construction of accessible toilets on two main beaches reaffirms respect for equal access to hygienic facilities.

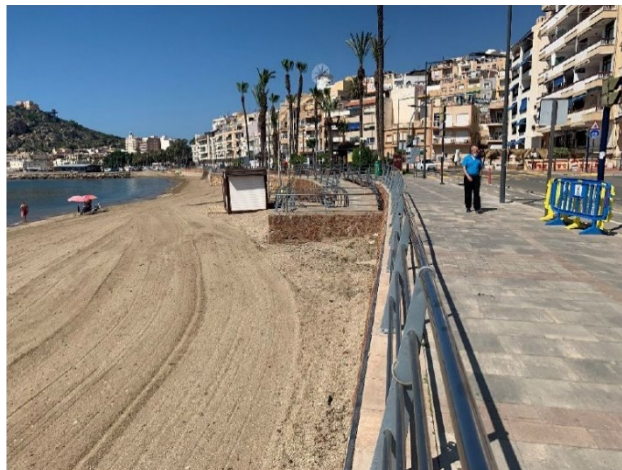


Figure 13. Picture of Levante Beach

From the point of view of social responsibility, the action is aimed at improving the quality of life of local residents. It provides accessible leisure and recreation spaces that promote an active and healthy lifestyle. The installation of elements such as accessible footbaths and adequate toilets also has a strong social responsibility component by improving people's experience on beaches and promoting inclusion.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the project stands out for its focus on minimising the impact on the natural environment. Detachable walkways and footbaths ensure that the

environment is not permanently altered. The use of precast concrete draining plates and concrete filter wells for footbaths contributes to sustainability by preventing the proliferation of microorganisms in the area.

7. Synergies with other public intervention policies or instruments.

The intervention is related to the strategic objectives and the action plan of the Urban Agenda of Águilas, a roadmap for the city to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, it aligns itself with Objective 1 “Spatial planning and rational use of land, conserve and protect it” and with its specific objectives 1.2 “Conserve and improve natural and cultural heritage and protect the landscape” and 1.3. “Improving green and blue infrastructures and linking them to the natural context”.

It also contributes to the sustainability of the cultural and tourist resources of the city, just like the rest of the operations included in EDUSI Sustainable Águilas, to which it belongs. This is why it establishes a special synergy with the creation of the Francisco Rabal Interpretation Center and the Carnival Museum, as well as with the rehabilitation of the La Loma chimney; these interventions have provided new tourist resources to the city, promoting revitalisation and increasing the attractiveness of the urban fabric for residents and visitors.



Figure 14. Picture of the Carnival Museum

The creation of the Francisco Rabal Interpretation Center and the Carnival Museum, both located in the Francisco Rabal House of Culture, have also been the subject of a good practice report. The museum, located on the first floor of the building, has an exhibition hall, audiovisual and multipurpose rooms. In this space the air conditioning and ventilation facilities, electrical installation, fire detection and prevention facilities have been renovated; new carpentries, pavements and false ceilings have been placed. Actions have also been carried out for the musealisation of the area.

As for the Francisco Rabal Interpretation Center, a space was renewed and adapted to house contemporary museum supports, capable of telling the actor’s trajectory in a didactic and experiential way. This space will be a reference at national level for the relevance of the elements of the artist that are exposed in it.

These two actions involved a total cost of EUR 238.606,42, which has been co-financed at 80 % by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), who has contributed a total of EUR 190.885.14.

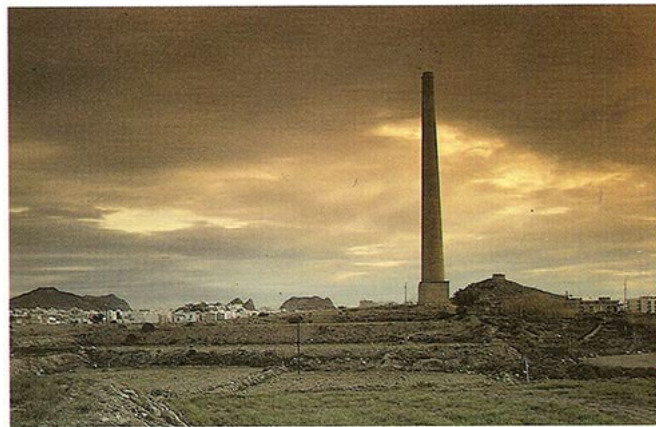


Figure 15. Picture of La Loma Chimney

On the other hand, an intervention took place in the protected La Loma Chimney, industrial heritage of the municipality. The structure has been rehabilitated, replacing missing pieces of ceramic and mortar, filling cracks and fissures, eliminating distortion elements (keys, mortar coatings, graffiti, etc.), cleaning the brick factory, etc. In addition, photocatalytic flooring has been placed around the base, as well as poster elements and lighting spotlights on walls.

This intervention has a budget of EUR 171.202,90, of which an 80 % were financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), reaching an amount of EUR 136.962.32.



Figure 16. Picture of Paco Rabal Museum

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