

*Una manera de hacer Europa*



# BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

## Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

“Construction of a new pedestrian walkway and cycle path over the River Tormes between the neighbourhoods of Tejares and Huerta Otea”

Salamanca City Council

**Programa Operativo  
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**



**The action plan entitled “Construction of a new pedestrian walkway and cycle path over the River Tormes between the neighbourhoods of Tejares and Huerta Otea” undertaken in the year 2021 listed as an example of Good Practice.**

The new pedestrian walkway and cycle path over the River Tormes is a connectivity and sustainable mobility action plan undertaken to improve links between the neighbourhoods close to the river and Huerta Otea, thus facilitating the integration of both banks to remove a historical natural barrier.

The walkway, measuring 167 metres in length, is divided into five spans with a total usable width of 5 metres, each one fitted with a section formed by two lanes measuring 2.50 metres, one intended for pedestrians and the other for cyclists.



The paving used is continuous along the deck, adapted to each usage and is duly marked both vertically and horizontally. In the side edges, handrails manufactured from stainless steel have been installed. Furthermore, a public lighting system has been fitted using LED technology on the walkway and the access points. The action plan also includes the building of access points to connect the network of pedestrian pathways and cycle paths comprising the Green Corridors project, as well as with the existing roadway, particularly on the left bank, which will be the longest point in order to link up with the Lunes de Agua Walkway.

The total cost of the operation amounts to 2,010,689.58 € (2,003,562.58 € + 7,127.00 € communication actions), with the invested **eligible cost** standing at **1,495,588.18 €**, with an ERDF grant of 50% (**747,794.09 €**), **this action plan has a potential impact on the total population of (143,269 inhabitants according to the most recent census in 2021).**



LEFT IMAGE: Previous condition.

RIGHT IMAGE: Post reform.

# 1. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION AS GOOD PRACTICES

## 1.1. DISCLOSURE OF THE ERDF'S INVOLVEMENT:

The role played by the ERDF in the action plan has been properly disclosed amongst the actual and potential beneficiaries, as well as the general public through diverse publicity elements. Thus, compliance with the obligations in terms of disclosure set forth in the Regulations have been met through citizens being informed via billboards, plates and informative videos.

Furthermore, information has been published both on the Council's website ([www.aytosalamanca.es](http://www.aytosalamanca.es)), as well as that of EDUSI ([www.mastormessalamanca.es](http://www.mastormessalamanca.es)) and also on the Salamanca Green Infrastructure Strategy Web ([www.saviasalamanca.com](http://www.saviasalamanca.com)).



The project has been properly announced amongst the actual and potential beneficiaries, as well as the general public through newsletters, interviews, mailings, informative brochures, live and online events, exhibitions, posting of content on social networking sites with a local and regional outreach in both the written and online press.

- NEWSLETTERS AND INTERVIEWS posted on digital media and available on the EDUSI web.



- BROCHURE AND VIDEOS \_ [Microvideo](#) on social media and mass mailing of the informative brochure.



- PRESS AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES: Announcement in the daily 'La Gaceta de Salamanca' (www.lagacetadesalamanca.es, 16/05/2022). Additional initiatives have been developed as part of the Communication Plan, namely the publication of a [report](#) in the same newspaper.



- INAUGURATION EVENT WITH CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION.



During the unveiling of the walkway, a citizens' encounter was arranged to symbolise how the two neighbourhoods historically separated by the River Tormes could finally be directly joined. In this way, from both banks cyclists and pedestrians set off to meet in the middle of the walkway. Afterwards, in the adjoining park featuring the Urban Allotments, children's games were played, and environmental workshops held to provide timely information on the significance of the ERDF Funds contributing to build this walkway.

Alongside the foregoing, to publicise the project, explain its scope and EU community participation through the ERDF funds, diverse workshops were held such as the Citizens' Participation Committee (direct and potential beneficiaries), EDUSI TORMES+ exhibition (beneficiaries and the general public in the neighbourhoods joined by the walkway), informative brochures (beneficiaries and the general public), mini videos, purchase of space on social media, etc.



## 2. INTEGRATION OF GROUNDBREAKING ELEMENTS

**The innovative nature of the actions undertaken is framed within the following elements:**

- The action plan aims to remedy a **shortfall in connectivity existing on both banks of the river**, as until now, to the west of the University Bridge there was no link between both banks reaching the walkway through the driving of residual waters on the left bank of the river, located at a distance of around two kilometres. As both riverbanks in this section are located in major populated areas in the city which are close to each other yet at the same time presently separated by the physical barrier formed by the River Tormes, the aim was to overcome this hindrance through the new pedestrian and cyclist connection.
- The new walkway is inserted into the map of **continuous, safe, accessible and comfortable pedestrian walkways itineraries** for the population as a whole and for people with reduced mobility or other vulnerable sectors of society. Similarly, the putting into service of the walkway is compatible with the encouragement of intermodality through the implantation of public bicycle rental schemes and other single-person vehicles in departure and end points of the demand for mobility within the framework of EDUSI area, namely in the strategic nodes under its auspice.
- The lack of existing walkway structures over the River Tormes to the west of the University Bridge over a distance of two kilometres towards the river represented a barrier between the residents on both sides of the riverbank, as has been duly observed in similar action plans undertaken on the riverside in urban settings. The construction of a new connection will reverse this situation, **thus maximising permeability and connectivity between the neighbourhoods** located on each side of the river, while enhancing leisure and recreational use of the new networks of pedestrian walkways and cycle paths, along with the EDUSI area as a whole.

- This new infrastructure **will favour the increase of journeys made according to sustainable mobility modes** whose starting / end points are in the main nodes (Centro Tormes +. Lonja, ...) and activity areas (Allotments, Banks of the Tormes, ...) in the EDUSI action scope.
- The construction of the walkway entails an improvement in terms of accessibility **creating new links to areas of major attraction within the EDUSI environment**, with a marked specialisation in usage related to leisure, recreation, culture, sports and acting as an element in the riverside area that facilitates the flow of leisure and recreational activities toward the traditional core in Tejares and its trading axis in Avda. de Juan Pablo II.
- Likewise, it is foreseen that the walkways will eventually have a bearing on incoming and outgoing flows (transferring part of these onto sustainable transport modes) which will be promoted by Centro Tormes+ as an activity generator strategic node (entrepreneurship promotion) and educational programmes within the sphere of actions. It is, therefore, **a bridge forging opportunities to balance development and living standards** on both banks of the river.
- The unveiling of the walkway is compatible with the encouragement of intermodality through the implantation of public bicycle rental schemes and other single-person vehicles in departure and end points of the demand for mobility within the framework of EDUSI area, namely in the strategic nodes under its auspice. **Therefore, it contributes to intermodal shift, fostering the use of the bicycle and journeys on foot** to move between neighbourhoods, reducing reliance on motorised transport and thus the use of private vehicles.

### **3. SUITABILITY OF RESULTS WITH THE AIMS SET FORTH**

This operation valorises the potential of fluvial natural heritage creating a service for the riverside neighbourhoods as sustainable tools for urban transformation, entailing at the same time one of the standout offers in terms of leisure, recreation and general enjoyment in the municipality. The development of this action plan consists not solely in the undertaking of the new connection point, but moreover it guarantees the permeability of the city towards the river through green trails and resting areas linking thus the operation of the Urban Allotments with that of the Green Corridors.

### **4. CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING ISSUES OR WEAKNESSES DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF IMPLEMENTATION**

The action plan bolsters connectivity between both banks of the river, as to the west of the University Bridge there was no link between both banks reaching the walkway through the driving of residual waters on the left bank of the river, located at a distance of around two kilometres. Both banks flanking the river at this point are densely populated though close to each other, yet at the same time presently separated by the physical barrier formed by the River Tormes, the aim was to overcome this hindrance through the new pedestrian and cyclist connection, while also strengthening bonds and bringing the city centre 'closer' in a sustainable manner.

### **5. DEGREE OF COVERAGE**

The coverage of this activity is sizable, given its strategic nature and as it also reaches all residents of the districts close to the river including those in the EDUSI action areas, both in terms of the indirect effects that

are pursued through the operation, and, conversely, the citizens of Salamanca (143,269 inhabitants according to the most recent census in 2021).

The unveiling of the New Walkway has been given a high degree of media coverage with more than 230,000 insights in the first 45 days following its opening and a total outreach of more than 36,000 views of the informative launch campaign (equivalent to 25% of the municipality's population).

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS NON-DISCRIMINATION, ALONG WITH SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Horizontal principles have been included among the CRITERIA FOR the SELECTION OF OPERATIONS in all the Strategic Aims set forth in the EDUSI TORMES+ project, the latter being a **mandatory factor** for the selected operations.

These criteria have been guaranteed in the universal use of the walkway regardless of gender or social status, thus guaranteeing equality and non-discrimination in the use of and access to the New Walkways, on the grounds of gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation

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

The operation is complementary to the policy lines provided for in the General Urban Planning Plan (PGOU) of Salamanca, in which this new fluvial connection was already contemplated. Likewise, the action plan is linked to the Salamanca Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (PMUS).

Similarly, the development of interurban permeability in the city of Salamanca is wholly aligned with the SALAMANCA URBAN AGENDA ACTION PLAN (2030 Horizon), recently passed by the City Hall as a pilot project within the scope of the RECOVERY, TRANSFORMATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN (PRTR) implementing NEXT GENERATION EU funds.



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