

Una manera de hacer Europa



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Actuaciones Cofinanciadas

Refurbishment of pavements and roofs in the San Amaro Cemetery to recover its tourist, cultural and environmental value.

A Coruña City Council

**Programa Operativo
Plurirregional de España**

Año 2022

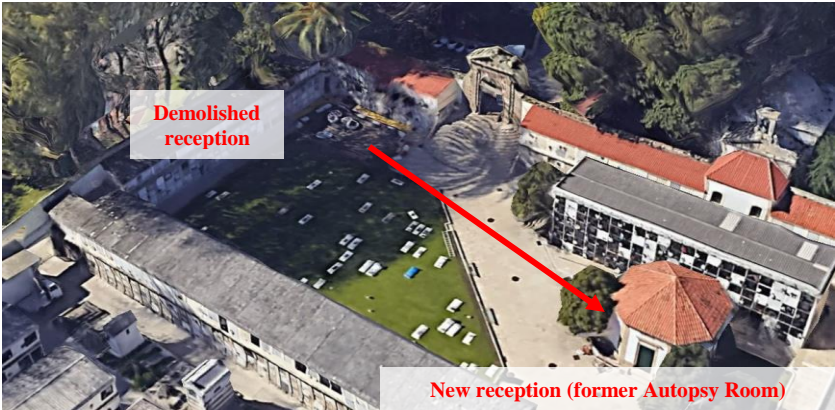
Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Best Practice: Refurbishment of pavements and roofs in the San Amaro Cemetery (included in the European Cemetery Route) to recover its tourist, cultural and environmental value.

The Best Practice consists of the regeneration of several areas of the San Amaro Cemetery in A Coruña. This cemetery has more than two centuries of history and houses pantheons and tombstones of different architectural styles such as romanticism, modernism and *art deco*. It is located in front of the sea and there lie the remains of well-known local personalities such as Wenceslao Fernández Flórez, Manuel Murguía, Luis Seoane, or Picasso’s sister. Due to its heritage value, it is part of the [European Cemeteries Route](#), a European association dedicated to preserving, valuing and disseminating the funerary heritage in Europe. This route is an initiative of cultural interest, which has been reported in numerous travel publications, such as [National Geographic](#).

The projects co-financed by the ERDF were used to repair its buildings, niche modules and surrounding areas with the aim of restoring their historical, tourist and environmental value. Three contracts were executed for this purpose.

The first contract focused on the execution of the project "**Various improvements to the San Amaro Cemetery**". The reception building was demolished, as it interrupted the view of certain areas of historical interest.



This reception area was located at the entrance of the cemetery and took on too much prominence, blocking the view of several lines of niches and the green space of the children's burial grounds.



FORMER RECEPTION



RESULT OF THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD RECEPTION AREA

The reception was moved to the former Autopsy Room, which was refurbished for this purpose. This room is a building of great historical value, and due to this action it was possible to adapt it to its current reception functions and enhance its heritage value.



NEW RECEPTION (FORMER AUTOPSY ROOM)



INTERIOR OF THE NEW RECEPTION

Finally, the ground floor of the Funeral Services building was renovated to locate new changing rooms, optimise the layout and facilitate road access to the basement. The refurbishment was completed with the demolition of the existing concrete niches around the building and the construction of a public park in the southern area adjacent to the cemetery.



DEMOLITION OF NICHES AND A NEW PUBLIC PARK

The Funeral Services building is located to the east, outside the cemetery's boundary wall, next to the promenade, and was built in the beginning of the 21st century. The ground floor was refurbished to optimise its operation. The layout was improved and an access to the garage was created for municipal hearses. The archive areas were also reorganised and the changing rooms for cemetery workers, previously located in the old Autopsy Room, were moved to this building.



FUNERAL SERVICES BUILDING



NEW CHANGING ROOMS

Two other contracts were used to carry out the "**Conservation and maintenance of the second and third departments**" projects. The works focused on the repair of roofs and facades, water drainage, paving of the floors and installation of service networks (rainwater drainage, electricity and water supply).



BEFORE



AFTER

NEW ROOF INSULATION



PAVEMENTS AND FACADES REPAIRING

The budget for the project is 785,000 €, of which **the ERDF fund contributes 80% equivalent to 628,000 €**. As a result, the heritage, historical and environmental value of the cemetery has been and restored.

The criteria for the identification of this action as a Best Practice are as follows:

1. THE ROLE OF THE ERDF HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY DISSEMINATED TO POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

In terms of regulatory communication, ERDF co-financing has been reported in all cases. During the execution of each work, **temporary signs** have been shown:



TEMPORARY SIGNS DURING THE WORKS

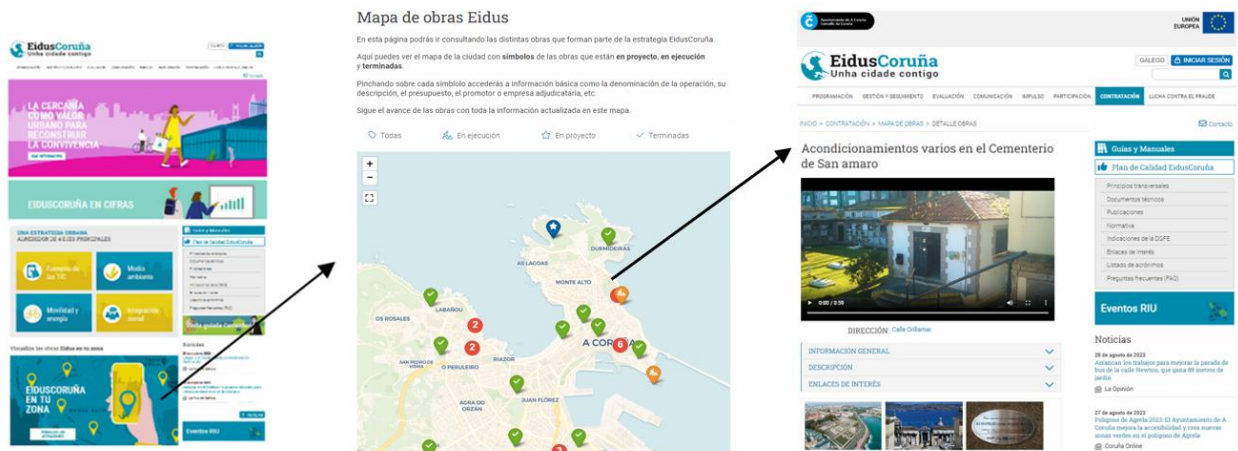
Once the work have finished, the corresponding **permanent plaques** were installed:



PERMANENT PLAQUES

Details of each action are shown in the specific section of the beneficiary's **website**:

- [Various improvements to the San Amaro Cemetery](#)
- [Improvement of the second department of the San Amaro Cemetery](#)
- [Improvement of the third department of the San Amaro cemetery](#)

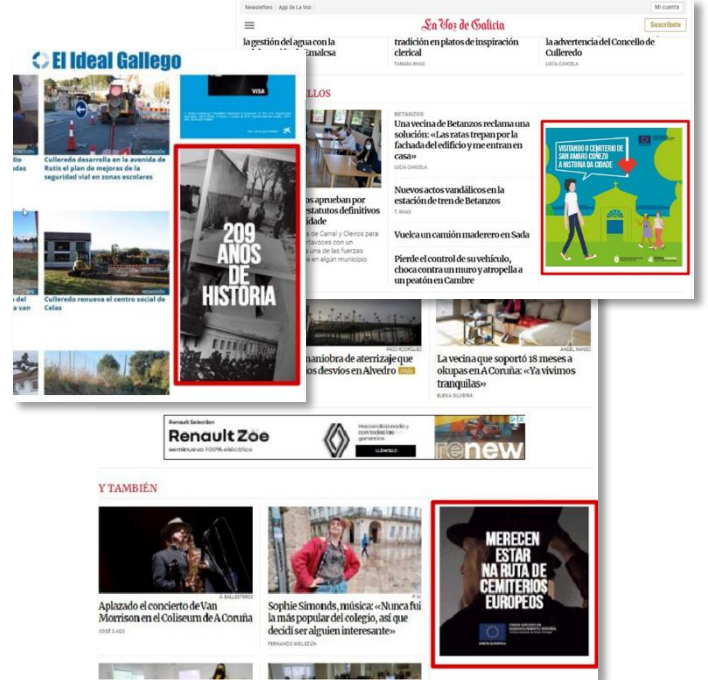


WEBSITE: www.coruna.gal/eidus

In addition, numerous **press articles and advertisements** have been published to inform the public about the progress of the project.



PRESS ARTICLES



PRESS ADVERTISEMENTS

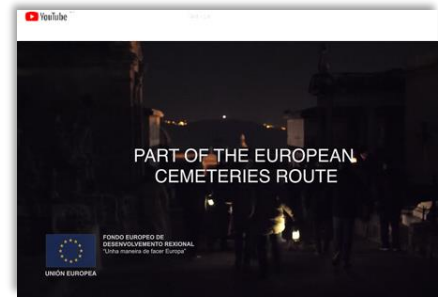
An extensive **social media campaign (RRSS)** has also been carried out through regular organic communications and advertisements to raise awareness of the ERDF co-financing and the refurbishment of the cemetery.



ORGANIC RRSS COMMUNICATIONS RRSS ADS
(Click on the image to access the publication)

SOCIAL MEDIA ADS

To complete the communication actions, **guided tours** were organised to explain the European Cemeteries Route. A **video** was also produced, with voice-over and subtitles in three languages (Spanish, Galician and English). It featured actor and tour guide Suso Martínez bringing Fiz de Cotovelo to life to show the secrets hidden in one of the oldest cemeteries in Europe. This audiovisual piece contains the image of the ERDF and was published on social media, on the [works map](#) section of the municipal web portal and on the municipal Youtube profile. See [Youtube link here](#).



2. THE PERFORMANCE INCORPORATES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.

In general terms, the main premise of the action is to remedy the pathologies observed in the different areas of the cemetery, such as water filtrations in the roofs, the improvement of the paving and flooring, as well as the electrical and sanitation installations by means of innovative solutions with a low environmental impact, using non-polluting materials.

In this respect, the following innovative elements have been incorporated:

- Renovation of roofs with EPDM waterproofing membrane made from recycled plastics, a material that does not pollute in its manufacturing process or during its useful life cycle (50 years outdoors).
- Creation of a landscaped public park, next to the funeral services building, consisting of planters with an innovative wooden design that also serve as benches. Native plant species were placed in the planters, making the space and more pleasant for visitors and users.
- Installation of zinc downpipes for the evacuation of rainwater collected from the roofs.



3. ADEQUACY OF THE RESULTS OBTAINED WITH THE ESTABLISHED OBJECTIVES

The following goals initially set have been achieved:

- The rehabilitation of the old Autopsy Room, a historic building from the 19th century, to convert it into the new reception, recovering the cultural value of this space and clearing the entrance to the cemetery thanks to the demolition of the old reception.
- The humanisation of the square next to the funeral services building. To this end, 300 unused

concrete niches that disfigured the facade were removed and a landscaped public park was built, consisting of a set of planters that may be used as benches. In addition, various species were planted, creating an attractive space for visitors and recovering its environmental value.

- The improvement of the rainwater drainage network and the pre-installation of the electricity supply to provide certain areas of the cemetery with adequate lighting, a key element in the enhancement of the most visited historical parts of the cemetery.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL AREA OF IMPLEMENTATION.

This action has resolved the deterioration of several areas of the cemetery. In total, work has been carried out on 7,044.7 m² regenerating buildings and basic installations.

Environmental problems have been solved. For example, given the lack of green infrastructure in the city, spaces have been recovered through the construction of a landscaped public park, invasive plant species have been replaced by native ones, and non-polluting and recycled materials have been used.

Finally, the action boosts the development of cultural and heritage tourism, which is very present in the city, while strengthening funeral tourism. In this sense, not only has the number of visitors to the cemetery increased, but their experience has also improved qualitatively. As a result, the activity of tourism-related sectors (hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, etc.) is indirectly boosted.

5. LEVEL OF COVERAGE OF THE TARGET POPULATION.

The implementation of this project has a direct impact on the inhabitants of District 10 of A Coruña, where the cemetery is located. According to the municipal census of August 2023, the population of this district is 8,979 people (4,232 men and 4,747 women).

In general terms, it reaches the entire population of A Coruña, made up of 250,823 inhabitants (116,241 men and 134,582 women). At the same time, it may benefit the population of municipalities in the functional urban area of A Coruña that do not live in the city but frequently visit their relatives who rest in this historic cemetery. The population of the functional urban area is 415,144 inhabitants, according to the Urban Audit Indicators for Functional Urban Areas (2022).

Lastly, it has the potential to appeal to all those interested in historical and funerary tourism, a growing activity that allows the discovery of fascinating stories and places.



6. CONSIDERATION OF THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

The action complies with the principle of **equal opportunities and non-discrimination** through different channels. Firstly, through the incorporation of the gender perspective in the design of the public space.

Secondly, the specifications governing the contracts included special conditions of execution referring to equal treatment and opportunities guaranteed by the contractor. These conditions were in line with the current legislation and municipal instructions on equal treatment. In addition, each bidder had to declare that it was up to date with the obligations of effective equality between women and men. This means that the company has to draw up and implement an equality plan if it employs more than 250 workers.

On the other hand, the operation complies with the principle of **environmental sustainability** in the design and execution of its actions, aimed at improving the quality of the public space. To this end, green areas have been enlarged and roofs, facades and pavements have been repaired using non-polluting and recycled materials.

Likewise, all the design and construction elements have complied with current **accessibility** regulations. For example, the change of paving, consisting of a polished concrete slab with a rough finish, has improved circulation in the cemetery area, reducing the risk of falls due to slippery paving. The entrance to the funeral services building has also been made more accessible by installing a ramp at the entrance.

7. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION.

This Best Practice establishes synergies with other public interventions as it has reinforced the performance of other funds and has contributed to enhancing its positive aspects.

Firstly, it is directly related to the [Strategic Tourism Plan for A Coruña](#) as it contributes to the promotion of heritage tourism products.

On an environmental level, this action establishes synergies with [A Coruña's Climate Change Strategy](#), whose objective is to reduce greenhouse gases produced in the municipality by urban activity and mitigate the effects of climate change, thus guaranteeing the well-being of citizens. It is also aligned with the [A Coruña Green Infrastructure Strategy](#) to transform the city into a multifunctional space with high environmental quality, greater resilience and more naturalised.

Finally, the action generates synergies with other operations of the [EidusCoruña strategy](#) such as the [Creation of the Breogan wood](#) and the [Recovery of traditional paths](#). Both operations are included in Line 3 entitled "Restoration of places of tourist, cultural and environmental interest in the city's neighbourhoods".

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