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BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Operaciones Cofinanciadas

**Actions of reconditioning and
enhancement of the Northern
Camino de Santiago, the inland
route, also known as the Primitive
or Oviedo Way**

Galician Tourism Agency

Programa Operativo de Galicia

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

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Actions of reconditioning and enhancement of the Northern Camino de Santiago, the inland route, also known as the Primitive or Oviedo Way

This operation, which was carried out by the Galician Tourism Agency, consisted of carrying out three types of actions to improve the variant of the Camino de Santiago known as the Primitive Way or Oviedo Way, which runs through the municipalities of A Fonsagrada, Baleira, Castroverde, Lugo, Guntín, Friol, Palas de Rei, Toques and Melide, where it then connects with the Camino de Santiago's main route: the French Way.

The first action consisted on the reconditioning of the land through which the Way passes. The soil itself was modified to make it more stable and water was channelled to prevent erosion and soil deterioration.

The second action is the one that improved the existing signposting on this variant of the Camino de Santiago. Milestones and different types of shells were used that allow a better visual identification of the route.

The third action corresponded to the rehabilitation of a heritage asset in the town of A Fonsagrada Pasarín House. This building, which was in a state of semi-abandonment, was transformed into a hostel for pilgrims, respecting most of its original layout.

The overall cost of this action was €2,102,921, of which €1,682,337 was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The people who travel along the Primitive route of the Camino de Santiago have benefited from all these actions: 11,473 people in 2016 (an increase of more than 5% over 2015) and 13,685 people in 2017 (an increase of more than 13% over 2016).



It is considered Good Practice as it falls within the criteria designed for this purpose:

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

A video was made explaining the details of the operation. This video has been disseminated through the Xunta de Galicia's official channels, such as its social networks:



An article has also been published on the European Commission's website about this action: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2018/04/24-04-2018-the-primitive-way-the-path-for-pilgrims-since-9th-century:

El Camino Primitivo, la ruta para los peregrinos desde el siglo IX



24/04/2018



El Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) ha cofinanciado este proyecto de renovación y promoción de esta ruta jacobea, su infraestructura y su patrimonio, teniendo en cuenta que la Vía Primitiva fue el itinerario más seguido por los pueblos de Asturias y Galicia durante el siglo IX y una buena parte del siglo X desde otras partes del norte de España y Europa.

Alrededor de 2,3 millones de euros del FEDER han sido asignados al Camino Primitivo, una de las diez rutas históricas del Camino de Santiago, para mejorar su accesibilidad y la señalización de las diferentes rutas del Camino con túmulos, conchas de cerámica, flechas amarillas y la provisión de servicios al peregrino a lo largo del recorrido.

La ruta del Camino Primitivo recorre los municipios de A Fonsagrada, Baleira, Castroverde, Lugo, Guntín, Friol, Palas de Rei, Toques y Melide, donde conecta con la ruta principal del Camino de Santiago y el Camino Francés.

Este proyecto, catalogado en 2015 como Patrimonio de la Humanidad por la UNESCO y respaldado con financiación de la Política Regional y de Cohesión de la UE, constituye un caso de buenas prácticas que sirve como fuente de inspiración para nuevas soluciones de la política regional en toda la UE.

The Primitive Way, the pilgrim's route since the ninth century.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has co-financed this project to renovate and promote this Jacobean route, its infrastructure and heritage, bearing in mind

that the Primitive route was the itinerary most followed by the peoples of Asturias and Galicia during the ninth century and a good part of the tenth century from other parts of northern Spain and Europe.

Around 2.3 million euros of ERDF's money have been allocated to the Primitive Way, one of the ten historic routes of the Camino de Santiago, to improve its accessibility and the signposting of the different routes of the Camino with tumuli, ceramic shells, yellow arrows and the provision of services for the pilgrim along the route.

The Primitive Way runs through the municipalities of A Fonsagrada, Baleira, Castroverde, Lugo, Guntín, Friol, Palas de Rei, Toques and Melide, where it then connects with the Camino de Santiago's main route and the French Way.

This project, catalogued in 2015 as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and supported with funding from the EU's regional and cohesion policy, is a case of good practise that serves as a source of inspiration for new regional policy solutions across the EU.

A Fonsagrada's Hostel was inaugurated by the President of the Xunta de Galicia, the highest autonomic authority, who with his presence contributed to disseminate the actions of this new public accommodation service on the Primitive Way:



A Fonsagrada estrena albergue en un año que está siendo "histórico" para la Ruta Jacobea

EFE

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ALBERGUE DE FONSGRADA A FONSGRADA CAMINO FRANCÉS A MONTAÑA



Feijóo (c), durante la visita al nuevo albergue de A Fonsagrada

NOTICIAS DE HOY



"Vou poñer cámaras porque xa me roubaron dúas veces no último ano"



El tejado de una casa de Currelos, afectado por un incendio en la chimenea



Lugo pedirá la Medalla de Oro de Galicia para el IES Lucus Augusti



El Concello de

Specific brochures on the Primitive Way were also produced and distributed at the main national and international fairs, as well as at tourist offices:



2. This action incorporates innovative elements

As for the restoration of the hostel, actions were carried out to improve its accessibility, security and to reduce the building's energy consumption.

Another priority was to use the most eco-friendly and hygienic materials possible when restoring the building. This will facilitate the recycling of any existing waste.

On the other hand, easy exits will allow occupants to safely vacate the building in case of fire. This will facilitate the firefighter's response in case of emergencies, as well as that of the other extinguishing and rescue teams.

Even the materials which allow for the best soundproofing have been selected.

3. Adequacy of the results obtained to the established objectives

These actions have made an essential contribution to the sustainable recovery of a pilgrimage route which, since its declaration as a World Heritage Site in 2015, has seen a marked increase in the flow of its pilgrims.

The different actions carried out on this route have added value to this World Heritage Site, encouraging and making its knowledge more accessible to pilgrims and tourists from all over the world and adding complementary services to it, such as the construction of a public hostel in a building of cultural interest which was renovated thanks to this very operation.

The set of actions carried out has had a certain impact and contributes to generating economic growth, employment and the modernisation of Galicia, as well as encourage the settlement of its population.

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

These actions have managed to increase the number of tourists and pilgrims who walk the Camino de Santiago through this Primitive or Oviedo Way, relieving a little pressure and tourist saturation from the main route of the French Way.

All the pilgrims and tourists who have travelled along this route since its adaptation have seen its transit and orientation facilitated by the works of adaptation and signposting. To this must be added the creation of complementary services such as the pilgrim hostel, which completes the service provided for the pilgrim by having a complete network of public hostels, where they can spend the night at an affordable price throughout their travels. For example, the renovated hostel is the only one located in the town of A Fonsagrada.

5. High degree of coverage of the target population

These actions have notably benefited the local population and contributed to the settlement of the rural population, not only in A Fonsagrada where the new hostel has been established. All the population centres in the municipal areas through which the Camino passes: A Fonsagrada, Baleira, Castroverde, Lugo, Guntín, Friol, Palas de Rei, Toques and Melide have seen an increase in the influx of pilgrims and tourists and business opportunities in the service sector.

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

Both on the route and in the hostel, several actions have been completed favouring their accessibility as well as the removal of architectural barriers. As for the routes, the main actions taken to favour their accessibility consist on the upgrading and maintenance of road surfaces (making sure the material used is fix and can withstand heavy weight without distorting), the absence of changes in level, discontinuities in the road, elimination of specific obstacles such as fences or lateral elements which may be difficult to detect, etc. The signposting was, and is, a key element of accessibility, both in its design, content and location as a source of information for the pilgrim.

On the hostel's ground floor, its clients can find all of its services, such as a bicycle parking, living rooms, kitchen, dining room and laundry/clothe lines. Also located on this floor is a bedroom adapted for people with disabilities with its own bathroom.

It does not use sexist images, nor does it use any form of infrastructure which benefits one gender or collective over another. Concepts are presented which benefit the general public equally. Specifically, when hiring for these actions, preference was given to companies which hired people with disabilities, which have implemented an equality plan, or which have the Galician Mark of Excellence in Equality (a distinction that rewards the companies most aware of equality).

7. Synergies with other policies or public intervention tools.

The actions carried out are closely related to what the Galician Tourism Agency's policy included in its general or sectoral plans. Likewise, this action is closely related to the Galicia Tourism 2020 Strategy, which aims to improve the competitiveness of Galician tourism and boost the Galician economy.

It is also in line with the Camino de Santiago 2015-2021 Master Plan, which aims to promote the conservation and protection of the Camino de Santiago and respond to the new needs of 21st century pilgrims.

Finally, this action also forms part of the Tourism Accessibility Plan and the Camino de Santiago, which aims to make Galicia a benchmark in terms of inclusive and accessible tourism.