

Good Practice presented by Sociedad Pública de Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente de Castilla y León, consisting of the Waste Water Treatment Facility at El Puente y Emisario de Cobrerros (ZAMORA)

The Sociedad Pública de Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente de Castilla y León, S.A (SOMACYL), is a public company whose activities include water supply and sanitation, among others.

The action which is the subject of this good practice consisted of the construction of a waste water collection system for the populations of the municipality of Galende (Zamora). The operation also involved the construction of a waste water treatment facility at a site in El Puente, for proper treatment of the waste collected and its subsequent return to the Tera River.



The cost of the project was 1.809.000 €, with ERDF aid comprising 904.500€.

The impact achieved by the action is evident, since with its execution, waste water treatment reaches a population equivalent of 3.146 inhabitants who directly benefit from the action.

This action is considered a good practice, since it meets the following criteria:

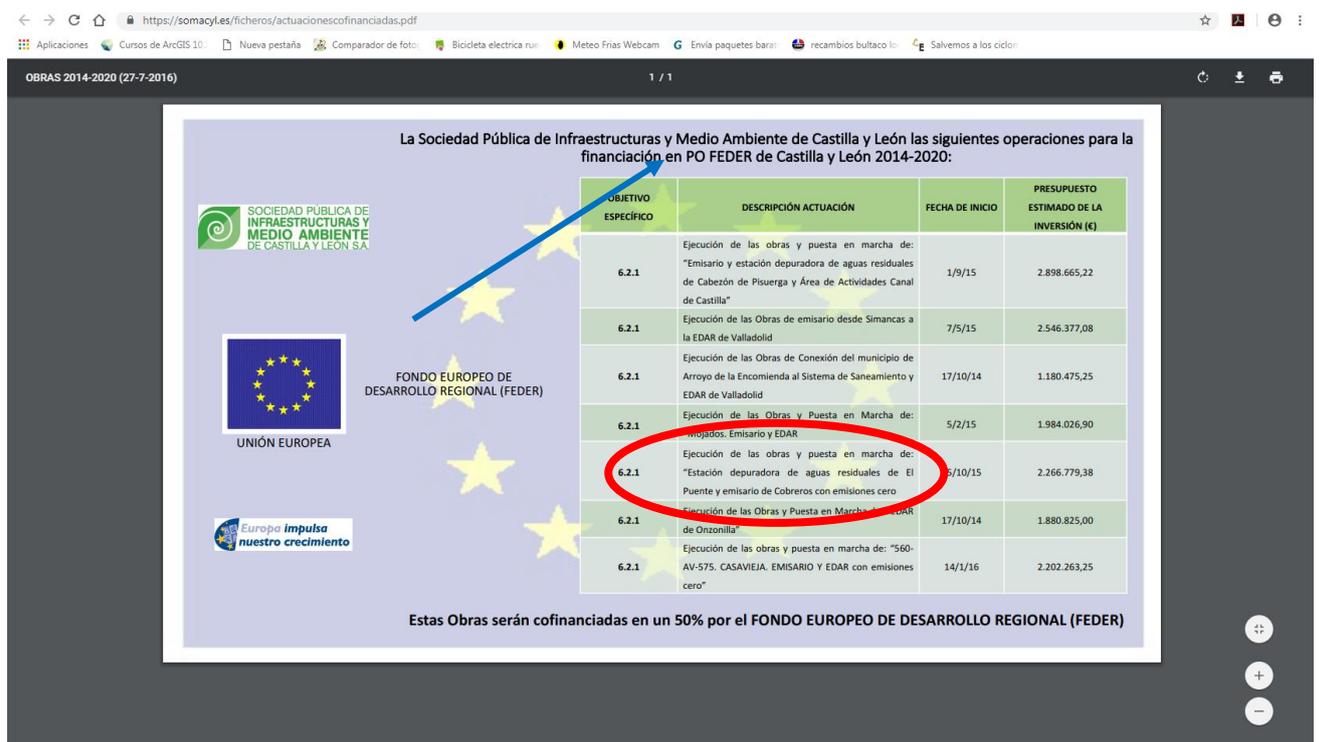
1. The operation was duly disseminated and communicated to beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and to the general public.

In performance of the project, the Sociedad Pública de Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente de Castilla y León, S.A (SOMACYL) complied with all regulatory obligations, thus, the European co-financing is recorded in the public documents on the contracting of the works, that is, both in the calls for tender, and in the Administrative Specifications Document, with specific reference made to the ERDF co-funding.

Also, a sign was erected in a visible place during works execution, and following works finalization, a plaque was installed informing of the European Union's contribution through ERDF funds.

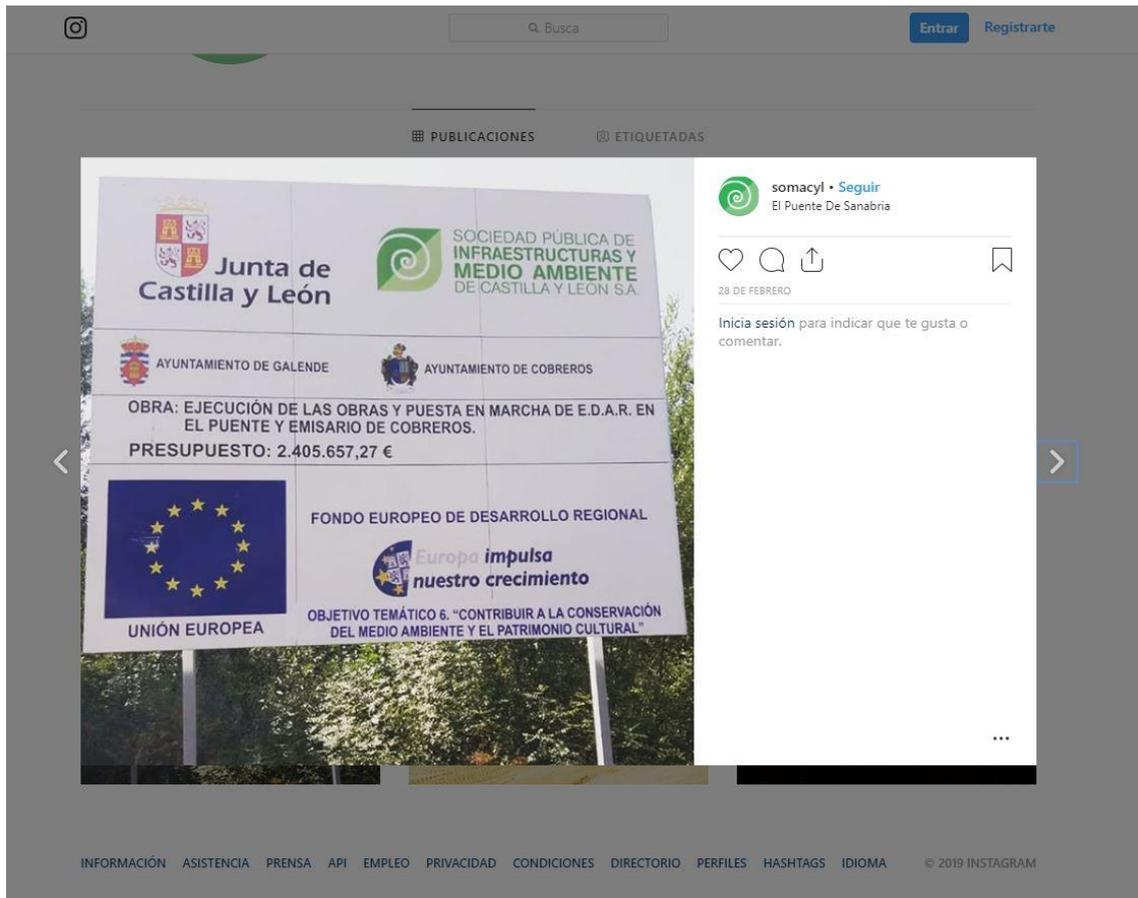
Also, the web site of the Sociedad Pública de Infraestructuras y Medio Ambiente de Castilla y León, S.A (SOMACYL) has a special section where it disseminates information on its actions.

<https://somacyl.es/>



Social media was also used for dissemination of the project.

<https://www.instagram.com/somacyl/>



2. Action involves innovative elements

The principal innovation of this project is that it is part of a series of actions undertaken by SOMACYL to reduce CO2 emissions. The actions are to reach zero carbon footprint of the works, through two specific means:

On the one hand, through emissions reduction. Recycled construction materials from duly licensed construction and demolition waste management companies are used to the greatest extent possible, which reduces the overall CO2 emissions of the works execution.

On the other hand, through the plantation of poplar trees that increase forestation of the Autonomous Community of Castile and León. Plantations are done over a surface area sufficient for the CO2 absorbed by the trees to offset the CO2 emitted during works execution. In addition to neutralizing CO2 emissions, the plantations bring a return on investment at the end of their productive life, when the wood is sold for lumber.



Poplar tree plantation to offset CO2 emissions

3. Adequacy of results obtained to objectives established

The objective of this action is to remedy the current lack of sewage and waste water treatment infrastructures, by installing sewers, outfalls, and urban waste water treatment facilities, as well as to foster sustainable economic development by protecting and improving the environment.

Thus, the results obtained by the action presented as a good practice, the Waste Water Treatment Facility El Puente y Emisario de Cobrerros (ZAMORA), adequately complies with the objectives proposed. Prior to the action, untreated waste water was dumped at the locations affected. The action has meant the construction of a sewage system that collects the waste water from these populations, and the construction of a waste water treatment facility to properly treat these flows and return them to the river.

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

One important aspect of this action is its location in a rural area. Given how important these services are for the permanence of a population in the area, and the fact that the actions carried out led to evident water quality improvement, the actions have a direct impact on maintaining a stable population in this rural area.

Furthermore, the Waste Water Treatment Facility El Puente y Emisario de Cobrerros is part of a series of projects undertaken in the Castilla y León territory to ensure compliance with community regulations on the environment and waste water management, and to ensure that the water treated is safe and of good quality when it is returned to the river basin.

5. High degree of coverage of the target population

The action is aimed at the entire populations of the locations Sotillo de Sanabria, Limianos de Sanabria, Quintana de Sanabria, San Román de Sanabria and Barrio de Lomba, within the municipality of Cobrerros (Zamora), and to the entire populations of the locations Cubelo, Ilanes, El Puente y Rabanillo, within the municipality of Galende (Zamora).

This action affects not only the resident population, but also the seasonal population, as well as the economic activity of these locations.

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

Regarding the promotion of equal opportunity between men and women, during the contracting stages of the project presented here as a good practice, strict compliance with the law ensured that the principles of freedom of access to tenders, publicity and procedural transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment of candidates bidding on contracts, were all upheld.

Furthermore, the project beneficiaries are the inhabitants of the municipalities included in the scope of the action, there being no situation or condition that might pose discrimination.

Regarding environmental sustainability, while the final objective of the the Waste Water Treatment Facility El Puente y Emisario de Cobrerros is waste water treatment, with ensuing protection of the environment, this treatment Facility also has low energy consumption LED light fixtures; reuses the water for plant maintenance, thus reducing consumption; has a treatment system that self-adjusts in winter and summer to account for seasonal differences (when waste water dilution differs) for more energy efficient treatment, and during its construction, low carbon economy measures were taken into account.

7. Synergies with other public policies or instruments

This action is within the line of numerous Community Directives that constitute the backbone of the different Member States' waste water treatment and sanitation policies, such as The Water

Framework Directive, which establishes a community framework for water policy. The Directive emphasizes environmental aspects above all the others and establishes obligations in relation to wastewater collection and treatment systems.

The construction of the Waste Water Treatment Facility El Puente y Emisario de Cobrerros is included in the General Collaboration Protocol entered between the national Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs and the regional government of Castilla y León.

Further, the joint operation of all of the waste water treatment infrastructures of the natural park, Lago de Sanabria, of which the action described in this report is a part, brings major synergies toward comprehensive waste water treatment of this natural space.