

SPAIN

Local development

Location

Navía

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding

Total budget 284 588.60 (EUR)

EAFRD 161 350.40 (EUR)

National/Regional 40 337.60 (EUR)

Private 82 900.59 (EUR)

Project duration

2021 – 2021

Project promoter

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A LEADER funded non-productive investment project to convert a historical building into a cultural centre with multiple social, economic, and cultural benefits.

Summary

The Western Asturias region is covered by the Navia-Porcía Development Centre's Local Development Strategy (LDS). Two of the principal aims of this LDS are to tackle the progressive abandonment of cultural heritage assets and to address the lack of local leisure and culture facilities. In the case of the Casino de Navía building (a listed cultural heritage site at risk of abandonment) this conservation and renovation project has managed to address both issues at the same time.



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Project Results

The Casino of Navía is now a major piece of public infrastructure which can host a variety of cultural and social events. It also attracts people from other municipalities and regions, which brings important economic and social benefits to the local area, including job creation.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ This example shows how collaboration between the public and private sectors, with support from LEADER, can deliver multiple economic and social benefits.
- ❑ The recovery of emblematic built heritage assets contributes to development across the entire region.

Context

The Western Asturias region stretches from the Cantabrian coast to the neighbouring province of Lugo and is covered by the Local Development Strategy (LDS) of the Navia-Porcía Development Centre LAG. One of the priority issues needing to be addressed in the LDS was identified as the progressive abandonment of cultural heritage assets and a lack of local leisure and cultural spaces.

An example of late 19th and early 20th century 'indiano' architectural heritage, the Casino de Navía was built according to a style developed by a then-prospering merchant class on their return from Latin America. It was used as a centre for social gatherings and cultural events, and, following a period of collective management by a 'Society of Friends' (1919 – 2012) it was donated to the City Council with the aim of continuing its existence as a cultural centre and preventing its abandonment. It is one of the largest cultural complexes in the region.

Objectives

The aim of this RDP investment through the 'LEADER measure' was the maintenance and conservation of an historical building that provides leisure and cultural services to local inhabitants and tourists.

Activities

The comprehensive refurbishment of the building comprised equipping a 19th century building with the necessary facilities, equipment, and resources of a 21st century cultural centre, while adhering to strict heritage conservation standards.

Main results

The Casino de Navía has become a major cultural hub which hosts rehearsals, performances, and large-scale public events for up to 400 people. Serving a population of around 8,000 inhabitants, in addition to attracting people from other municipalities and regions, the centre successfully maintains an ongoing, daily programme of varied leisure and cultural activities. Beyond job creation at the Casino de Navía itself, the wider economic and social benefits include increased revenue for local restaurants, hotels, and shops.

Key lessons

The most remarkable aspect of this project has been the enthusiasm and involvement of civil society in ensuring that this privately donated cultural asset, rather than being abandoned, could become a sustainable addition to council-run, local public infrastructure.

The city council, with the support of the LAG, opted for the conservation of the original complex rather than the construction of a new building. The preservation of historic cultural assets not only adds value to an area's heritage and identity, but also supports the development of the entire region. It is also worth remembering that EAFRD/LEADER support can be used to provide opportunities to create cultural and community spaces that are not principally aimed at income generation.

"Culture, tradition and identity are other elements that, while not bringing any economic benefit, generate a great deal of capital."

LAG Navia-Porcía Development Centre

Additional sources of information

n/a