The "PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANITATION AND SEWAGE OF THE AGRICULTURAL REGION OF HERVÁS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BAÑOS DE MONTEMAYOR, LA GARGANTA Y HERVÁS (CÁCERES)" is presented as a Best Practice.

The municipalities benefited by the present action are Baños de Montemayor, La Garganta and Hervás (Cáceres) which, together with the municipalities of Abadía, Aldeanueva del Camino, Gargantilla La Pesga, Ahigal, La Granja, Mohedas de Granadilla and Zarza de Granadilla, are part of the sanitation and sewage treatment infrastructures executed by the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge in the Agricultural Region of Hervás.

The infrastructures implemented to reduce contamination in the municipalities under study were mainly based on the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant in the municipality of Hervás and the necessary collectors from Baños de Montemayor, La Garganta and Hervás to carry the wastewater to the treatment plant.



The total investment of the project amounts to €7,443,308 with a support of €4,825,329.

This project will serve a population of 15,963 equivalent inhabitants.

#### It is considered a Best Practice because:

> The role of the ERDF in the action has been conveniently disseminated among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

All those actions aimed at publicizing the project "SANITATION AND PURIFICATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL REGION OF HERVÁS TT.MM. DE BAÑOS DE MONTEMAYOR, LA GARGANTA Y HERVÁS (CÁCERES)", in order to inform the public of the objective of the project to achieve the degree of wastewater treatment required by current legislation on urban wastewater.

Construction sign and permanent plaques









In addition, a series of differentiated communication tools have been implemented, such as:

#### News

The project has been publicized in the local, regional and national press, with special emphasis on the financing of the works with ERDF funds.







#### Promotional video of the project

The DGA has prepared a promotional video of the project with aerial and terrestrial images with express indication of the contribution of the ERDF Funds, which has been broadcast on the screens of the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, as well as being available on the website.





## Brochures and posters

An informative brochure of the action has been made with a brief description and the repercussion and benefit obtained for the citizenship.

A total of 300 copies of brochures and 21 copies of posters have been distributed in three distribution points: Hervás City Council, Cáceres Provincial Council and AQUANEX.

All of them with express reference to the contribution of the ERDF Funds in the execution of the action, and published in both languages, Spanish and English.

### Informative brochure





#### **Poster**



#### > The project incorporates innovative elements

The purpose of the sanitation and wastewater treatment project in the agricultural region of Hervás is to achieve an effluent with the conditions required and established by current legislation on wastewater treatment.

Currently, for the correct operation of a wastewater treatment plant, it is essential that it is designed with automation systems in order to achieve an integral management of all the installations and elements of the plant and, therefore, to be able to supervise and control in real time the wastewater treatment.

In this project, it is worth highlighting as an innovative element, the improvement of the wastewater treatment processes thanks to the automation of the plant's facilities and their integral management. In this way, it is intended to optimize the tasks and the cost of operation and functioning of the equipment.

In addition, once the works have been completed, the recovery, restoration and landscape integration of the different areas of action has been carried out. The affected areas have been recovered by conditioning them morphologically and spreading topsoil for revegetation. The slopes have been designed with a slope that ensures their balance and have been revegetated by planting and shrub vegetation with native species.

In order to achieve greater integration with the landscape, the facades of all the factory works have been painted in colors and tones that facilitate this integration.

#### > Adequacy of the contents to the objectives pursued

The quality of the discharges of the municipalities of this action does not comply with the conditions required by the current legislation. The facilities necessary to solve the problem of wastewater contamination in the towns of La Garganta, Baños de Montemayor and Hervás have been the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) of Hervás and the new collectors that bring together the discharges from the municipalities under study to the WWTP itself.

The objectives aimed at with this action have been the reduction of the negative effects on the environment and the Public Hydraulic Domain and the improvement of the

quality of the water discharged into the receiving environment, therefore contributing to the achievement of the objectives set by the Water Framework Directive.

#### Contributes to the resolution of a regional problem or weakness

The hydraulic infrastructures of sanitation and sewage in the towns of the agricultural region of Hervás, La Garganta, Baños de Montemayor and Hervás were in an obsolete and inadequate state and did not comply with current regulations, contaminating the receiving environment and nearby habitats.

This deficient wastewater treatment did not effectively remove nitrates and phosphorus in the discharges to the receiving environment. This causes the proliferation of different types of algae and invasive species on the beds and banks of the watercourses downstream of the discharges. In turn, this vegetation uses the oxygen available in the riverbed for photosynthesis, which further worsens the river ecosystem water quality.

The action in the agricultural region of Hervás involves an improvement in the sanitation and wastewater treatment of the previously mentioned localities, contributing to the resolution of the initial contamination problem, achieving the necessary degree of wastewater treatment and improving the quality of the water in the surrounding area.

With these new facilities, water treatment is also guaranteed during peak flow episodes and high season. Thanks to the contribution of the ERDF fund, the treated water will comply with the specifications of the European regulations on wastewater treatment.

In addition, after adequate water treatment, the regeneration and reuse of the water for other uses in the study area and downstream of it will be promoted.

#### > It has a high degree of coverage of the target population

The construction of the project satisfies the current demands of the populations in the study area and solves the discharge problems of these municipalities, ensuring the achievement of the objectives set by current legislation on wastewater treatment.

These sewage and wastewater treatment works, together with those already executed in the agricultural region of Hervás, involve the treatment of wastewater from a total

equivalent population of 29,200 inhabitants. In this way, a high degree of coverage is obtained for the general population in general of the municipalities under study.

# The horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and environmental sustainability have been taken into account

Environmental sustainability implies a balance between economic and social development and the care and protection of the environment. This project seeks to protect the environment and avoid the ecological pressure generated by wastewater discharges into the natural environment, resulting in the discharge of an effluent in optimum quality conditions into the receiving bodies of water. It has also been taken into account the minimum environmental impact of the facilities that have been adapted to the environment of the study area and using new technologies to avoid the transmission of bad odors and noise.

In addition, the equal opportunity criteria has been taken into account for the companies interested in obtaining the award of the contracts associated with the construction of these infrastructures, having been tendered through an open procedure.

Likewise, the population of these municipalities has been favored in its entirety without any discrimination by the construction of these new infrastructures and access to information on this project has been facilitated through brochures and posters that have been distributed at strategic points of the main actors involved in this action, such as the Provincial Council of Cáceres, AQUANEX and the City Council of Hervás, giving greater visibility and accessibility to the affected population.

#### > Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention

Regarding synergies with other policies, the present project also adds to the fulfillment of the different actions foreseen in the Program of Measures of the Hydrological Plan of the Tajo Demarcation (2015-2021), such as the sanitation and wastewater treatment projects in the agricultural region of Hervás in Alagón, Ahigal, Abadía, Aldeanueva del Camino, Gargantilla, La Pesga, Zarza de Granadilla and Mohedas de Granadilla.

Likewise, the sanitation and wastewater treatment works carried out in the agricultural region of Hervás are in addition to those already executed by the Regional Government of Extremadura in the actions to improve sanitation and water treatment included in the Infrastructure Agreement 2017-2020, in the province of Cáceres, such as in the municipality of Berlanga (Badajoz), to improve the wastewater treatment systems of the municipality and with an investment of about 2 million euros.