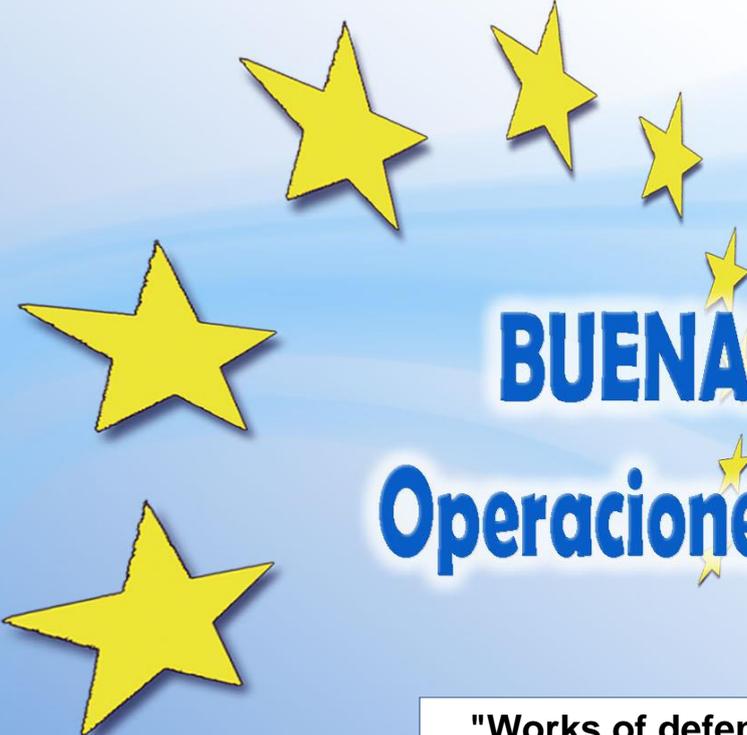


*Una manera de hacer Europa*



**BUENAS PRÁCTICAS**  
**Operaciones Cofinanciadas**

**"Works of defense against floods of the  
Urumea River, in the San Sebastian  
neighborhood of Martutene."**

**Basque Government**

**Programa Operativo  
del País Vasco**

**Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional**

**Año 2017**



GOOD PRACTICES PRESENTED IN THE FEDER POPV EXECUTION REPORT  
2014-2020  
FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE ON MAY 17, 2018

Denomination: Restoration of fluvial channels.

**It is presented as Good Practice "Works of defense against floods of the Urumea River, in the San Sebastian neighborhood of Martutene." Basque Government**

## DESCRIPTION

Taking into account that a large part of the surface of the Autonomous Community has slopes greater than 30%, the elaboration of risk maps that identify the most problematic areas is an important tool to plan the actions in an appropriate way. This together with the criterion of advocating for the maintenance of relief forms in their original state will allow the minimization of these phenomena.

Floods are the natural risk that has caused the greatest damage historically in Euskadi, both material and loss of human life. For this reason, it has traditionally been one of the most relevant aspects of hydrological planning in the community.

The Hydrological Plans applied in Euskadi have meant the consolidation of policies based on the combination of non-structural measures (management of uses according to the degree of flooding, hydrological information systems and early warning, civil protection measures, etc.) and structural measures, only in consolidated urban areas subject to risk. Among them, the first ones have an essential role, highlighting the preventive policies that avoid the occupation of floodplains, for this reason actions of channeling and defense against floods are proposed, to reduce the risk of flooding in urban areas or with economic activity.

The works of defense against floods in the Urumea on its way through Martutene have consisted basically in the channeling of the river along 850 meters to allow the transit without affections of the water floods with a period of return of 500 years for the neighborhood donostiarra and the replacement of the Pilar and Martutene bridge pedestrian walkway, increasing the safety thresholds significantly compared to the previous situation.

However, the risk 0 before floods does not exist. And the priority challenge is not other than to prevent the exposure of new sensitive uses to the natural and recurrent floods of the rivers in the territory, and thus avoid subsequent new works of defense and affections to the river.

The total cost of this operation as a whole will reach € 35,000,000 (Includes Phase I and Phase II).

The eligible public cost will be € 17,250,000 of which the ERDF could provide € 8,625,000.

When the two phases are completed, the directly benefited population would reach 2,774 people, of whom 1,337 are women and 1,437 are men.

***It is considered a Good Practice because:***

***The action has been conveniently disseminated among the direct beneficiary population, the potential and the general public.***



Before and after the performance:  
Channeling the Urumea River as it  
passes through Barrio Martutene (Donostia)



### Explicit mention ERDF

The news was published in the month of January 2018 in the **Estrategia Empresarial magazine**. This magazine is distributed among companies, technology centers, Chambers of Commerce, Universities, Other Autonomous Communities, Provincial Councils, Town Halls, Museums and Hotels. There is a circulation of 3,000 copies and a circulation of 15,000 people. The geographical distribution of the Entrepreneurial Strategy Magazine is as follows: 45% in Bizkaia, 33% in Gipuzkoa, 20% in Alava and 2% in the rest. The profile of the reader, by occupation, is the following: 34.6% Executives and Executives 0.5 Public Charges, 5.8% Functionaries, 18.4% Liberal Professionals, 19% Technical Staff and 21.7% Businesswomen and Businessmen



Explanatory assembly addressed to the affected neighborhood

The mayor of Donostia San Sebastian and the director of the Basque Water Agency, met with the **neighborhood of Martutene** to explain the details of the works started by URA on the Urumea River at the height of the neighborhood to defend the neighborhood from floods. The Head of the Territorial Office of URA in Gipuzkoa also participated to comment that "the works involve a set of actions in Martutene to undertake the defense against floods of both the immediate environment and the reduction of the water surface upstream.

The technical staff of URA and the City Council have indicated that the works consist of the channeling of the Urumea River as it passes through Martutene, which will allow draining avenues with a return period of 500 years, increasing the thresholds for flood safety in a very significant way. of the current situation.

They also recalled that "these works are undertaken in two phases: the first corresponds to the section upstream of the Martutene bridge (included). The second will cover the actions of the section downstream of the Martutene bridge until the final point of the action coinciding with the Lugañene bridge ".

Works of importance.

Given the complexity of the action, the director of URA has requested "understanding the affected people of the neighborhood for the inconvenience that a work of such dimensions may generate in the daily life of Martutene something that will undoubtedly result in greater protection before the recurrent floods.

URA also made available to the neighborhood of San Sebastian neighborhood a telephone 943.000.077 and the email [martutene@uragentzia.eus](mailto:martutene@uragentzia.eus) to answer as many requests for information as may be required.

## **URA will start in 2018 the second phase of the Urumea flood defense works as it passes through Martutene**

November 8, 2017



Irekia

- This was explained by counselor Arriola during the visit to the works of the first phase, consisting of the channeling of the river along 850 m., in which the width of the channel has been doubled, and the replacement of the footbridge of the Pilar and the Martutene Bridge.
- The hydraulic regulation plan of Urumea, one of the most important projects of the Basque Water Agency, amounts to more than 35 million euros.
- URA and Aguas del Añarbe finalize the start-up of the new supply pipeline built under the riverbed, which will replace the pipeline that now overflies the Urumea.

The Minister of Environment, Territorial Planning and Housing of the Basque Government, Iñaki Arriola, has visited the works that the Basque Water Agency-URA has undertaken in the Urumea as it passes through the San Sebastian neighborhood of Martutene to defend it from the recurring floods of the River.

The actions have consisted in a channeling of the river along 850 meters in which the width of the channel has been doubled from the original 25 meters to the current 50 meters, allowing the transit of the floods without generating affections in the neighborhood of San Sebastian, and significantly increasing the safety thresholds for people. In addition, the pedestrian walkway of the Pilar and the Martutene bridge have been replaced, with more than 50 meters of light, adjusted to the new width of the Urumea as it passes through the neighborhood of San Sebastian. And the construction of a new network of rainwater collectors and a storm tank has been carried out. This tank will collect the waters that precipitate in the neighborhood in episodes of intense rains and will return them to the river, saving the difference in height with the plate of the high waters of the Urumea.

The budget of the whole of the actions of phase I has amounted to 19 million euros and have been financed by the **European Regional Development Fund, FEDER**.

Ana Oregi visits the works of defense against floods in the Urumea, in Martutene

November 4, 2016



Ana Oregi visits the works of defense against floods in the Urumea, in Martutene

Source: Irekia

- On November 15, the channel section of phase I will reach the projected hydraulic capacity
- Built the storm tank and collectors of the drainage network and work on their interconnection
- The hydraulic improvements of Phase I will mostly be completed before Christmas.
- The totality of works will conclude in March: urbanization, finishes and connections.

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The Minister of Environment and Territorial Policy of the Basque Government, Ana Oregi, the Deputy Minister of the Environment, Iosu Madariaga, and the Director General of the Basque Water Agency-URA, Iñigo Ansola, visited this morning the works of the first phase of the project for the defense against floods of the Urumea in Martutene in order to know first hand the evolution of the works. On November 15, the channel of the section of phase I will reach the projected hydraulic capacity with about 50 meters of width. This project has financing from the European Regional Development Fund, ERDF.

In addition to these two allusions in the press have been recorded a list of 90 news appeared in the different media: El Diario Vasco, Gara, Irekia-Basque Government, URA (Web page), News of Gipuzkoa, ETB 1 (Gaur Egun ), ETB 2 (Teleberri), TVE 1 (Telenorte), RNE, Cadena COPE, Onda Vasca, Euskadi today (Informative), Radio Euskadi (Informative), Cadena SER.

On the other hand, the placement of posters in points that are perfectly visible to the entire population are reminiscent of the financing of the European Union.



***The performance incorporates innovative elements.***

**The storm tank of the Martutene district comes into operation for the first time (January 2017)**

The heavy rainfall suffered has caused that in different points of the Cantabrian slope, especially in Gipuzkoa, and with a certain frequency, the orange warning threshold is exceeded due to the risk of flooding, especially in the Urumea basin.

Prior to the execution of the defense works of the Martutene district, in San Sebastian, in the face of the Urumea floods, the level of the river reached such a height that it prevented the sewage system from spilling into the river, which caused a worsening of the Flooding conditions and the neighborhood was flooded by this impossibility of evacuating sewage to the river.

Phase I of this project corresponds to the section of upstream, between the bridge of Paseo Martutene and the passage of the Añarbe pipeline. In this section, in addition to expanding the channel to reach 50 meters wide, the Martutene bridge, the Pilar footbridge and the Añarbe water pipeline are buried.

Among the works executed by URA (Basque Water Agency) and in order to ensure the proper urban drainage of the Martutene neighborhood is a storm tank equipped with an innovative element consisting of an automatic pumping device capable of relieving those waters independently of the Urumea level. When this device automatically enters into operation, it prevents the water from being retained in the neighborhood because it can not continue to drain the water when the Urumea is grown.

***The results obtained are adapted to the established objectives***

The proposed actions are incorporated into programs, proposals whose objective is to guarantee the conservation, protection of the geological heritage and the geodiversity of the Basque Country through preventive procedures and through tools and practical tools capable of preventing these risks. In the event that these episodes were unavoidable, the objective would be the restoration of the damaged area. "Areas with Potential Significant Flood Risk" and hazard and risk maps have been identified with the preventive objective of reducing or eliminating these risks, as far as possible, on the populations.

Through these actions, the aim is to maintain, conserve, recover and environmentally restore the channels in order to prevent deterioration, protect and improve the state of aquatic ecosystems, and also to minimize the effects and damages derived from natural risks.

The work carried out in the project is classified into five areas of action of URA:

- Environmental recovery works in fluvial area.
- Plantation on riverbanks and control and elimination of invasive species.
- Restoration of fluvial ecosystems.
- Scheduled maintenance works (clearing, etc ...) to guarantee the drainage capacity of the rivers, especially in artificialized channels and the removal of obstacles from channels that hinder the natural flow of water.

When the storm tank comes into operation it is able to relieve the level of Urumea waters. This fact and the evident effect of the rest of the works carried out so far have contributed to the episodes of flooding of high waters have passed with a remarkable greater degree of tranquility in Martutene, in view of the slackness with which the water circulates under the new Martutene bridge and the newly built Pilar footbridge, a stretch that has also been widened.

In this way and with a high degree of the achieved objectives, the Basque Government, in collaboration with other Authorities and with the financial support of the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund, have contributed to the promotion of this project by reducing the level of risks and damages suffered previously.

### ***Contribution to the resolution of the problem or regional weakness***

#### **Respect flood areas**

Count on fluvial reality when managing the urban territory in our towns and cities: administrations and citizens live with the rivers and we have to adapt to the natural recurrence of their floods so it is necessary to respect the flood areas where floods expand. This provides security to people and infrastructures, allows us to stop turning our back on a space of great ecosystem value and avoids having to invest and alter rivers in the defense against flooding of new urban environments. Fortunately, we work now with more foresight. "

Floods are the most important natural risk in Euskadi. Our basins are small, and have a large gap. It also rains a lot and, sometimes, with intensity. As a consequence, sometimes, rivers have violent and natural reactions, which would not be a problem if it were not for the water and the people claim for themselves the same territory.

## **Forecast**

However, the Basque Government, through URA, intervenes in those zones of natural expansion the rivers that historically have been occupied and in which the floods suppose a risk for the people and the vulnerable uses located there.

In Euskadi the catalog of pending areas to defend against the recurrent and natural floods of our rivers is wide; and the investments necessary to carry out these actions are very high. Hence the need to coordinate efforts between all administrations and citizens to not add any more to this already extensive catalog.

Therefore we must internalize the change in our claim of uses of the territory surrounding the rivers. We have to free the spaces where the rivers have to grow; we must respect the spaces where rivers must continue to be rivers, providing us with an important list of ecosystem services. It is about respecting the space of the river; to integrate the stubborn natural recurrence of the floods of the rivers in our use of the territory.

The works have consisted of widening and channeling the Urumea as it passes through Martutene -which will be provided with a width that varies between a minimum of 45 meters and a maximum of 50 meters, twice the width of the channel prior to the work - , and in removing and replacing the infrastructures that by their design made difficult the free passage of the high waters, in particular, the footbridge of El Pilar already replaced, the bridge of Martutene under construction and the demolition of the drinking water conduit of Aguas del Añarbe.

The works of canalization of the river and infrastructure and equipment works will minimize the recurrent floods in this area, improve the safety of the floodplains and regenerate the urban environment of the Urumea riverbanks.

### ***High degree of coverage of the target population***

The set of the action significantly increases the safety of people before the next episodes of high waters that, being a natural phenomenon, will return to Urumea.

The action, when framed both within the Hydrological Plans and the Risk Management Plans approved by both URA and the Cantabrian and Ebro Hydrographic Confederations, guarantees a high degree of coverage towards the population.

The population living in the neighborhood of Martutene in Donostia-S. Sebastian, benefits from the performance in a direct way. Directly it has benefited 2,700 people, but additionally it will benefit the population of other municipalities such as Astigarraga (5,500), Hernani (19,000), ... etc municipalities located upstream and downstream. In general, the target group of the actions developed will be the town councils and inhabitants of the Basque Country.

### ***Horizontal criteria for equal opportunities and environmental sustainability***

The participation of Emakunde- Basque Women's Institute as a guarantor of the integration of the gender approach and responsible for promoting equality between women and men in the ACBC has been considered throughout all the phases of the PO. In response to Emakunde's observations, the need to have equality units in all phases was transferred to the Intermediate Bodies; having as a methodological

reference the Guidance document prepared by the Equality Policy Network and the documents related to the inclusion of gender clauses in public procurement.

It should be noted that this BP has been reviewed by the Equality Unit of the Department of Finance and Economy, as responsible for the management of the ERDF.

In particular, some of the measures adopted are:

- Emakunde is present in the Monitoring Committee.
- Establishment of the Selection Criteria for Operations that integrate the principle of equality through a balanced participation of women and men.
- Promote the use of equality clauses in public contracts.
- A specific coordination structure promoted by Emakunde has been implemented: Interinstitutional Technical Working Group on Equality in European Funds in the ACBC.

Likewise, in the dissemination and communication actions, a non-sexist use of the language has been made and an effort has been made to ensure that the images contribute to equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

In terms of environmental sustainability, the Basque Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002-2020 sets environmental goals and necessary conditions that are aligned in the European Union Strategy for sustainable development and with the Sixth Community Action Program on the Environment.

Among the guiding principles for selecting operations, the principle of sustainable development has been included in the Investment Priorities in general, and must comply with the legal requirements in terms of environmental impact assessment, which will be supervised by the Management Committee. Follow-up and by the Environmental Authority of the Basque Country.

### ***Regarding the synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention***

The Hydrological Plans and the Risk Management Plans approved by both the URA and the Cantabrian Hydrographic Confederations of the Bay of Biscay and the Ebro must be put in value "because they are fundamental management tools to increase the safety of people in the face of the natural recurrence of floods. of rivers, and at the same time promote the good ecological status of those same rivers around which we build a city, we make a country ".

Historically, on too many occasions, people, we have put ourselves in the way that rivers claim when they naturally increase their flow and, therefore, we can say that we have been exposed to risk. The flood of the rivers is a completely natural phenomenon that we will always have. Both the Hydrological Plans and the Flood Risk Management Plans affect more than ever the need to respect the territory that the river claims when it grows; avoiding the exposure of vulnerable people and uses.

The objective of this project is to reduce the risk of flooding in the Barrio de Martutene.

On June 9, 2014, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Basque Water Agency (URA) and the City of Donostia-San Sebastián for the development and execution of the Hydraulic Works planned for the Urumea River in the Martutene neighborhood.

The realization of this action co-financed with FEDER funds in the 2014-2020 programming period has also boosted positive effects of new investments in our territory.