

## GOOD PRACTICE EDUSI "JAÉN HÁBITAT". JAÉN CITY COUNCIL

### ACTION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION AND PUNCTUAL DEMOLITION FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF SAN MIGUEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS



*Interior of the church and recovery of the remains of the column*

This action, considered as good practice, has consisted of the recovery of the temple listed as an Asset of Cultural Interest, hereinafter BIC, of San Miguel, which was on the red list of heritage at risk of disappearance in the city of Jaén because it was in a state of ruin.

Its enhancement and that of its surroundings located in the historic centre of the capital, constitute a boost for the tourism sector and a historic recovery. From his archaeological work, important finds from the 14th and 15th centuries have come to light, such as the main nave of the church with its pointed arches and carved stone corbels on which the wooden roof of the church rested. New frescoes, the altar and the apse have been identified that coincide with the period of greatest splendour of the church in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The action has included the improvement and adaptation of the environment, located in the heart of the historic centre.

The action has an eligible budget of 276,188.74 euros, and the ERDF aid is 220,950.99 euros.

## 1.- THE ACTION HAS BEEN DULY DISSEMINATED TO BENEFICIARIES, POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

The role of the ERDF in the action has been widely disseminated, from its planning (phase prior to the drafting of the project), during its execution (construction phase), and until the inauguration and commissioning for the public.

With regard to the regulatory communication, a **construction poster** was placed.



*Exterior of the property*

The performance was duly disseminated in both provincial and local media. Likewise, the entire development of the action was disseminated on the official website of the City Council:

[https://www.aytojaen.es/portal/p\\_20\\_contenedor1.jsp?seccion=s\\_fnot\\_d4\\_v1.jsp&tipo=8&&contenido=53221&nivel=1400&layout=p\\_20\\_contenedor1.jsp&codResi=1](https://www.aytojaen.es/portal/p_20_contenedor1.jsp?seccion=s_fnot_d4_v1.jsp&tipo=8&&contenido=53221&nivel=1400&layout=p_20_contenedor1.jsp&codResi=1)

It has also been disseminated through **written media at the regional level**, both in its printed and digital versions:

<https://www.ideal.es/jaen/jaen/mejora-entorno-iglesia-san-miguel-alcanza-ejecucion-20230608201844-nt.html>

<https://www.europapress.es/andalucia/noticia-mejora-entorno-san-miguel-jaen-alcanza-80-ejecucion-prevision-acabar-23-junio-20230608150535.html>

<https://www.europapress.es/andalucia/noticia-obras-adequacion-arqueologica-antigua-iglesia-san-miguel-jaen-descubren-frescos-siglo-xvi-20221216142325.html>

In the same way, the action has been conveniently disseminated through **local digital newspapers**:

<https://www.horajaen.com/2020/07/04/avanza-el-proyecto-para-que-la-iglesia-de-san-miguel-sea-espacio-arqueologico-visitabile/>

The **provincial newspaper with the largest circulation in the province** also published this Good Practice in both its printed and digital versions:

<https://www.diariojaen.es/jaen/de-carnero-a-lavanderas-obras-para-mejorar-el-entorno-urbano-de-san-miguel-en-la-capital-GB8641392>

The **EDUSI website of the Jaén City Council** made public all the press releases that were released to the media. Below is one of the links to one of the press releases:

<https://edusi.aytojaen.es/content/los-trabajos-arqueol%C3%B3gicos-en-las-ruinas-de-la-iglesia-de-san-miguel-sacan-la-luz-0>

The action has had a great impact on the **social networks of the City Council** such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Here is an example:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CqneQZWIO7t/?igshid=Y2NkYjk0MDhjYg%3D%3D&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/CqneQZWIO7t/?igshid=Y2NkYjk0MDhjYg%3D%3D&img_index=1)

It is important to highlight that the profile of the City Council on Instagram has 17.656 followers.

## **2.- THE ACTION INCLUDES INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS.**

This action has an important innovative character due to the fact that it is not a traditional heritage recovery, but, on the contrary, it has taken place the excavation, identification and enhancement of the ruins and archaeological remains related to the old Church of San Miguel, which was hidden as a result of the fact that, over the past few decades, private homes had been built on it.

The recovery of these ruins provides a unique opportunity for historical and archaeological research, an aspect that has already occurred because of the appearance of important archaeological remains such as an Islamic water channelling system that was later used as a shelter, leading to a greater understanding of local and regional history.

In addition, the exhibition of the church to the public has also been carried out in an innovative way, since, with the aim of raising awareness among citizens about the importance of the care and recovery of historical heritage, during the archaeological work carried out, a programme of guided tours was carried out under the title 'Open for works' that allowed the ruins of this asset of cultural interest to be known in situ for the first time in its history. This innovative initiative made it possible to open to the public some spectacular discoveries about the building and the history of the city itself.

Moreover, the visits were accompanied by an innovative plan of prevention measures to guarantee the safety of both citizens and the archaeological remains and frescoes discovered.



*Guided tour*

### **3.- THE RESULTS OBTAINED ARE IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN THE STRATEGY.**

The action is aligned with the Thematic Objective, hereinafter OT, 6 "Improvement of the urban environment including the enhancement of Cultural Heritage and the Improvement of the Urban Environment" by recovering a heritage element of the city located in the heart of the historic center which, in addition, presented a significant abandonment.

In the same way, it contributes directly to the expected results through Specific Objective (O.E) 6.3.4, because it is an example of protection, promotion and development of the Cultural Heritage of one of the areas of greatest historical interest in the city.

In addition, it contributes to other of the objectives set out in the operation in which the action is framed, which consists of the improvement of the environment as an integrating element of the city and the dynamization of tourism through the enhancement of this BIC.

It should also be noted that, as mentioned above, the action has been carried out in the Historic Centre of the city, constituted as a degraded area in which in recent years there has been a progressive loss of the population that lives there. In this way, the recovery and enhancement of tourist assets, in addition to boosting the economy of the area, also contributes to the improvement of the environment and the retention of the population in the historic complex, as well as favours its integration and cohesion with the people who live in other neighbourhoods of the city.

#### **4.- THERE IS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF A PROBLEM OR WEAKNESS DETECTED IN THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF EXECUTION AND REFLECTED IN THE STRATEGY.**

As reflected in previous sections, the BIC on which this action revolves was on the red list of heritage at risk of disappearance in the city of Jaén, because of the state of ruin in which it had been for decades. This led, on the one hand, to a lack of use of the heritage and archaeological resources that the city of Jaén has and, on the other hand, to a degradation of both the property itself and the environment that surrounded it.

This situation has been reversed thanks to the development of this Good Practice, since this has meant the enhancement of the environment and has generated a greater potential of tourist interest in the area, which did not exist before.

Thus, it has reinforced the identity of the city and its image and has contributed to revitalizing the environment where it is located and in which it is also possible to find other historic buildings and homes. This has also had an impact on improving the quality of life of citizens.

#### **5.- THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF COVERAGE OF THE TARGET POPULATION.**

The action is framed in the heart of the historic complex of the city, which generates the dynamization of this space, but its degree of coverage not only covers its neighbours, but all the citizens of the city of and the province, who will benefit from a greater degree of historical knowledge both about this BIC derived from the action and from the history and past of the city of Jaén.

In this way, the archaeological intervention and punctual demolition for the enhancement of the ruins of the Church of San Miguel and its surroundings has a high degree of coverage.

#### **6.- THERE IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION OF THE HORIZONTAL CRITERIA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION, AS WELL AS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

The action responds to the criteria of equality and opportunities insofar as it acts on an element of historical heritage initiated as an Asset of Cultural Interest that is in ruins. Its recovery has been very valuable for the historical knowledge of the city, because from minute one, its intervention has been considered as a social responsibility.

This is due, in addition to the awareness and importance of the protection and recovery of historical heritage, to the important benefits that this action generates for the population residing in the area in which the BIC object of intervention is located, which,

as already mentioned, constitutes a degraded area. In this way, a space of tourist and cultural interest is made available to the entire neighbourhood that contributes to the creation of clean, well-cared and quality spaces.

Finally, in relation to the criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, it is important to highlight that, always, and taking into account the characteristics and orography of the terrain, compliance with the basic standards of universal accessibility has been taken into account.

On the other hand, the restoration process has been always respectful with environmental sustainability consistent with the existing lack of control of the vegetation, plundering and even the partial collapses of recent years, among which the collapse of the roof of the apse that occurred in 2019 stands out.

In addition, the recovery and enhancement of historic structures instead of their destruction to make way for new constructions, is a form of sustainable development of the city, since it implies the conservation of existing architectural and cultural resources.

## **7.- THERE ARE SYNERGIES WITH OTHER POLICIES OR INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC INTERVENTION.**

The action of "Archaeological intervention and punctual demolition for the enhancement of the ruins of the Church of San Miguel" is part of one of the operations proposed within the framework of the Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy, hereinafter EDUSI, "*Jaén Habitat*", called "*ENHANCEMENT OF THE RUINS OF THE CHURCH OF SAN MIGUEL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS*".

This operation contributes to OT 6 "Improvement of the urban environment including the enhancement of Cultural Heritage and the Improvement of the Urban Environment", so it is directly related to other operations that make up the EDUSI Implementation Plan and that are aimed at achieving this objective. Among them we find the following: "Restoration and recovery of the wall of Jaén, improvement of its environment and its relationship with the city", "Jaén Tourist Office" and "Comprehensive rehabilitation in a degraded area of the historic complex".

Likewise, the action for the enhancement of the church and its archaeological remains has brought with it a work of digitization and study of two factory books of San Miguel that cover the statement of accounts between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries on the temple and that are complemented with the archaeological study of the present action. A work that is complemented by the excavations to recover this historic space. Both documents have been preserved in the Diocesan Historical Archive of the Cathedral and contain precise and meticulous information on the daily life and economy of the temple and provide useful information for this action as they allow an important part of the history of the city to be reconstructed.

Finally, it should be noted that the action generates synergies with the tourism sector as it highlights a new heritage for the city.