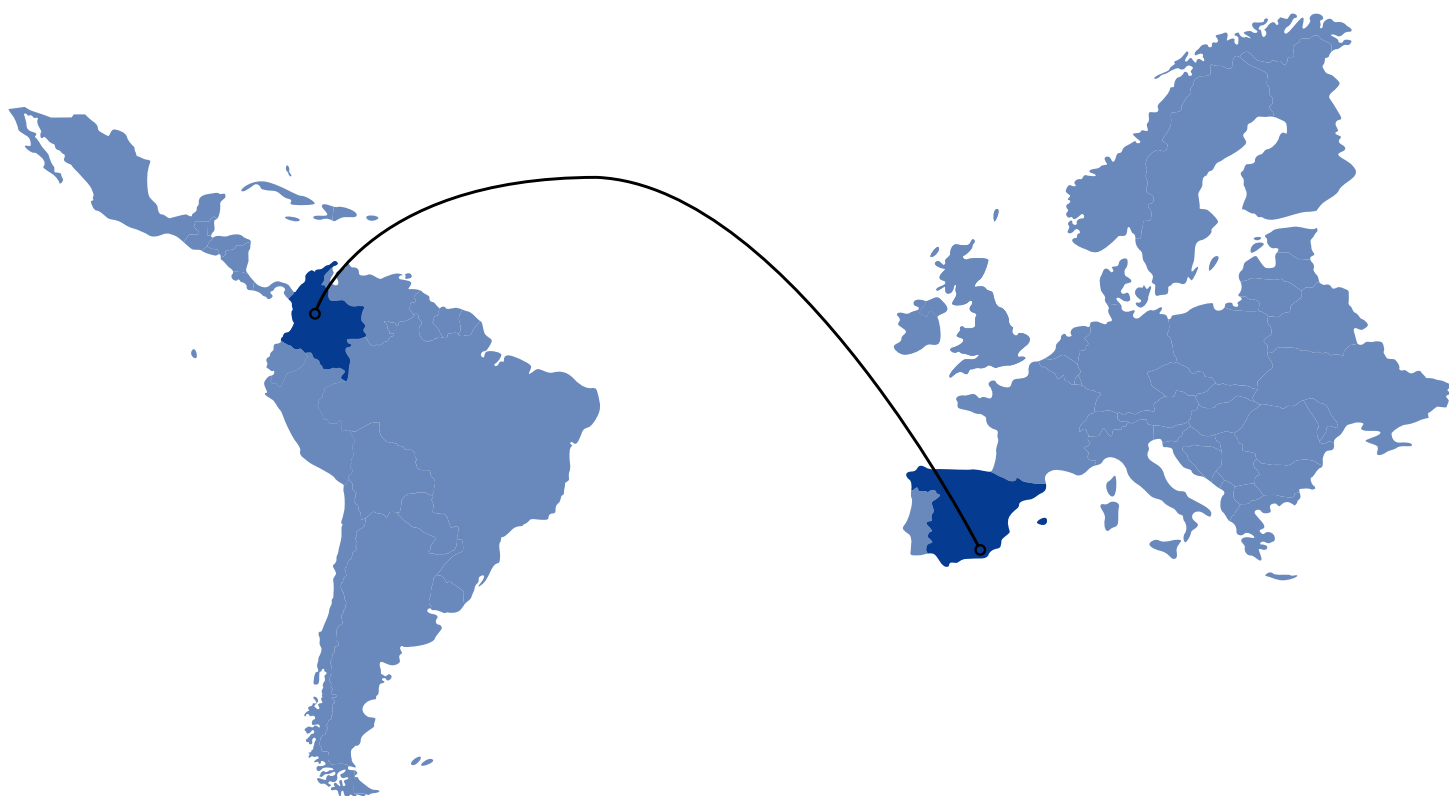

PAIRING REPORT: ARMENIA-ALMERIA



INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION
European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean



A European Union
Programme

ARMENIA-ALMERIA

THE PAIRING AT A GLANCE

Armenia is the capital of the Quindío Department, in Colombia; it is one of the main centres of the national economy and of the Colombian coffee growing axis.

Almeria is a city located in the southeast of Spain on the Mediterranean Sea and is the capital of the homonymous province. Its economy is based around fruits and vegetables production, with 100,000 acres of greenhouses, supplying much of Europe's demand.

Keywords

#Sustainable transport
#Sustainable mobility
#Renewable energy

Thematic areas of cooperation

Sustainable Transport
Urban renewal
Urban forestry

Objectives

1

Exchange of experiences for the integration of transport modes and for the promotion of non-motorised transport.

2

Urban renewal.

3

Promote the use of renewable energy in the transport sector.

4

Cooperation in the promotion of governance and citizens' participation in public policies related to sustainable urban development, particularly urban transport.

Activities

During Almeria's visit to Armenia, the projects of greatest interest for cooperation were visited. **Almeria was very interested in Armenia's model of citizen participation and reaffirmed the need to work on this issue during the cooperation**, as Almeria can learn a lot from its counterpart. **On the other hand, sustainable transport and the integral water cycle were defined as two topics in which Almeria could contribute with knowledge and support to Armenia.** In addition, they defined that sustainable tourism would be developed jointly, since both cities are at the same level of development, so they can learn from each other and develop a joint strategy.

After the mission to Almeria, the cooperation topics were reformulated, and the definitive **Joint Action Plan**

Stakeholders involved

Almeria: political organizations with representation in the Plenary of the Municipality of Almeria; University of Almeria and other private universities; Almeria Public Transport Company; social organizations and public institutions members of the Social Council of the City and the General Council of Citizen Participation; supra-municipal territorial



gave four lines of cooperation, with different actions to be developed:

1. Models of concertation and citizens' participation;
2. Medium- and long-term spatial planning, urban renewal and urban forestry.
3. Water Cycle;
4. Sustainable Mobility and public transport management.

Complementing the two study visits, the cities organized one **Internship**: two experts of Armenia worked in Almeria in the field of urban mobility and urban regeneration.

Administrations; trade unions and societal actors participating in the strategic planning process; productive sectors; unions represented in entities such as Chamber and Commerce; Local Action Group.

Armenia: Municipality of Armenia; Amable EICE company, as managing entity of the Strategic System of Public Transport of Armenia; University of Quindío.



MAIN INTERVENTION-PILOT PROJECT

Advance in the implementation of the Armenia Public Transport System based on the learnings from Almeria. During the internship in the city of Almeria, the Armenia team in charge of structuring the strategic transport system of the city was able to receive some training in relation to the implementation and operation of several aspects of the Almeria's public transport system (User Information, Fleet Management and Control systems).

The cooperation allowed to advance in the implementation of the Armenia's system in the following terms:

- Familiarisation with the Urban Mobility system of both cities and integration options.
- Support to the implementation process of both the traffic light network and the transport control centre in the city of Armenia.

- Videoconferences between the public transport authorities of both cities with the objective of sharing criteria on the public systems planning.
- Dissemination of models for the promotion of alternative transport systems as a strategy for the consolidation of sustainable and competitive cities.
- Presentation of models of renewable energy in production and mobility processes.

Impulse for the creation of an Urban Tree Planting Plan in Almeria.

During the internship in Almeria, a complementary project was made in relation with the urban trees of the city. After a series of meetings with municipal technicians, the eco-systemic services offered by these trees were identified and awareness was raised about its strategic added value.

MAIN IMPACTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

Since both Armenia and Almeria have under preparation externally funded urban transport projects, the collaboration has been essential to sharpen the focus on the sustainability aspects of its planned urban mobility system.

The city of Armenia, in concrete, has been able to incorporate intelligent transport systems in the structuring of its mobility strategic system. The municipality has incorporated some good practices in the implementation of solar energy systems in the city as well (mainly in relation with the traffic management), based on the experience of Almeria in the use of renewable energy sources.

The city of Almeria managed to prioritize the elaboration of an "Urban Tree Planting Plan" in the framework of its Strategic Plan "Almeria 2030", linking its measures to the adaptation and mitigation strategy

to Climate change (carbon sinks), its landscapes and cultural values.

Both cities discussed the possibility of creating an agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) to formalize the cooperation.



LESSONS LEARNED AND ADDED-VALUE OF IUC

"To guarantee success in the pairing process, the cooperating cities should share similar sociocultural and demographic aspects, to assure a common approach to the identified problems".

"The technical teams participating in the identification of the cooperation's main theme must focus on solutions or good practices that are already being developed in the peer city".

"Cooperation should focus on a maximum of 3 tangible projects, already framed in municipal development plans or strategies, able to be executed in the short term, and already financed".

- Armenia

CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Related **SDGs** and **Urban Agenda for the EU** topics:

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Urban Agenda for the EU: Urban Mobility.

INTEREST IN FUTURE THEMATIC NETWORKS

Interest shown by **Armenia** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

Interest shown by **Almeria** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

NETWORK 1	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport	NETWORK 1	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
NETWORK 2	Smart Cities & Digital Transition	NETWORK 2	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
NETWORK 3	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity	NETWORK 3	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
NETWORK 4	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption	NETWORK 4	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption
NETWORK 5	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions	NETWORK 5	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions
NETWORK 6	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality	NETWORK 6	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality
NETWORK 7	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills.	NETWORK 7	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IUC Pairing manager: Juliana Izquierdo

City of Armenia: Julian Torres Giraldo and Miguel Mejia

City of Almeria: José Antonio Camacho