

BEST PRACTICE: BUILDING OF A VALENCIAN BALL COURT IN BOQUERAS STREET (TRINQUET)

The good practice of **the building of the Valencian ball court in Boqueras street**, promoted by the Almassora Town Council, is presented. Popularly, this type of court is known as 'trinquete' ('trinquet' in Spanish). It is a unique pavilion in the town and one of the few in the province of Castelló dedicated to the autochthonous Valencian sport of ball ('pilota').

This discipline predates tennis, which marked its evolution with the incorporation of the racket, which protected the hands of the sportsmen and women and relegated the Valencian ball to a sport for the lower social classes as opposed to the elite who played tennis. Valencian ball has also been a form of leisure that every weekend brought people together around the trinquete to share the news, socialise and enjoy the game with family or friends.

The old Almassora court, which was privately owned and run by a local family, closed its doors 32 years ago and, since then and until 2022, all the local sportsmen and women have had to travel to other towns to play Valencian ball, as have the supporters who wanted to enjoy this sport. This fact has meant a loss of the tradition that the town has now retrieved.

In its beginnings, Valencian ball was played against an open-air wall and the public sat on an upper tier to protect themselves from the blows with the ball, which was sewn by hand with natural materials. This concept, now renovated, is the one that the new Almassora court follows, a building ventilated on one side to remind us of its origins and with a raised grandstand.

Since its opening last April, Almassora has contributed to the environment by eliminating the need for private vehicles to travel to other courts in the Valencian Community, promoting the revival of this traditional sport, incorporating women into the practice of Valencian ball, and committing to energy efficiency within the sports complex, illuminated with LEDs and without the need for air-conditioning.



Total investment: 1,238,834 euros

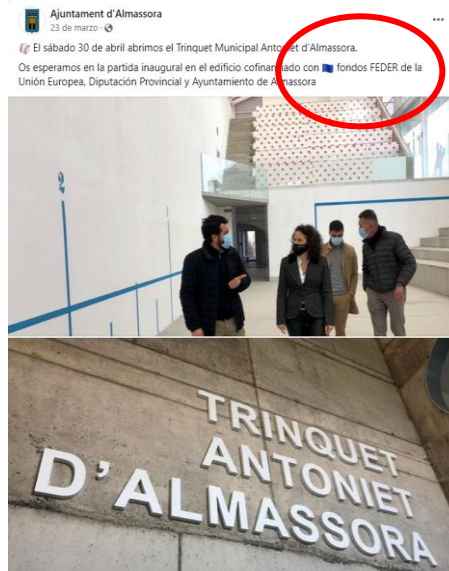
EU grant: 315,480 euros.

Co-financing of 25.4% from FEDER funds.

Impact: 2,000 monthly users

This action is considered good practice because the following criteria are met:

- The action has been adequately spread



Almassora abre su trinquet Antoniet d'Almassora tras 32 años sin pista de pelota valenciana

La inauguración ha contado con una partida en la nueva instalación, actuaciones y la proyección de un documental

Almassora | 30-04-22 | 20:07



Antonio Jorquera Més, concejal de Animació, recull el cubareta homenaje i una placa commemorativa.

Almassora ya tiene trinquet después de 32 años sin pista de pelota valenciana. Antonio Jorquera Més, concejal de Animació, da nombre y el edificio construido junto a los campos de soccer. La instalación ha costado 1,2 millones de euros cofinanciados por los fondos FEDER de la Unión Europea, la Diputación Provincial de Castellón y el ayuntamiento.



Domingo, 8 diciembre 2019

El pleno 'bautiza' al trinquet como Antoniet d'Almassora

La proposición de Alcaldía pasará mañana por la sesión ordinaria

Trinquet Municipal Antoniet d'Almassora. Esa es la propuesta de Alcaldía que pasará mañana por el pleno ordinario del Ayuntamiento de Almassora para denominar a la nueva instalación deportiva. La obra, cofinanciada por la Unión Europea a través de los fondos FEDER, la Diputación Provincial de Castelló y el consistorio local, encara la meta final para su inauguración.

Micro-videos on social networks

There are three micro-videos shared on social networks. They feature Antonio Jorques Mas (resident of Almassora, national champion of Valencian ball in 1973, after whom the court is named), César Beltrán (president of the Almassora Pilota Club) and José Cabanes 'Genovés II', leader of the ranking.

Radio campaign on provincial radio station (Cadena Ser).

The citizens told the story: (Antonio Jorques Mas, resident of Almassora, national champion of Valencian pelota in 1973).

Advertisement on regional television (À Punt)

Also available on the municipal Youtube channel Ajuntament d'Almassora

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7M9itkZDZjA>

Activity prior to the opening presentation

The Almassora Town Council and the Pilota Federation organised a presentation in the days prior to the opening of the sports court to show how the facility works and to explain to sportspeople and the population how to use the court and its characteristics in order to attract new users.

Inauguration of the court

Nearly 500 people attended the inauguration of the court on the afternoon of the 30th of April with a game broadcast live by the regional public television (À Punt) and Televisió Almassora (local). The sportsman José Cabanes 'Genovés II' announced his retirement from the professional circuit in Almassora.

https://www.apuntmedia.es/esports/pilota/nou-trinquet-antoniet-d-almassora-veu-llum-32-anys_1_1510217.html



Merchandising

The people attending the inauguration received a handmade screen-printed key ring that simulates the balls usually used by the players during the sport practice in the Trinquet. The wooden plate screen-printed with the motto of the funds can be used in supermarket trolleys.



- **The action incorporates innovative elements**

Firstly, it should be noted that the court itself is unique in Almassora and is the first to be built in the 21st century. It is built with large windows and LED lights to ensure maximum energy savings, as well as facing north with large windows to take advantage of natural lighting and natural ventilation, thus eliminating the use of air conditioning that works in the rest of the sports facilities in the town.

In addition, for the first time a court is integrated into another sports complex to take advantage of the pre-existing services (offices, bar, concierge) and reduce costs, making it a financially sustainable project.

- **The results obtained with the performance are in line with the established objectives.**

Almassora creates this Valencian ball court to get people interested in this sport again and so that those who practice it do not have to travel to other cities. It is also a new leisure alternative. One of its objectives is that this space should be sustainable, accessible, efficient, and forward-looking.

The performance fulfils all these objectives, as it has made it possible to schedule training sessions and matches every week since its opening on 30 April. Thanks to its design, around 500 people enjoy the programme planned by the Pilotari Club every week, which, until now, had to travel to other locations.

The building meets the criteria of efficiency by using natural ventilation to save on air conditioning and contributes to protecting the environment, as well as guaranteeing its use during the summer months. Access is universal and the location of the new court, next to other educational facilities, guarantees the objective of consolidating the love of this local sport, which also becomes a tourist attraction for supporters from other provinces.

It improves the lifestyle of the citizens by expanding the range of leisure activities available in Almassora, increasing the surface area for sports practice and eliminating the use of private vehicles to other towns to enjoy Valencian pilota.

- **The action contributes to solving a problem in the territorial area of execution.**

It offers a solution to the problem of the absence of a similar facility in Almassora since 1990 and avoids car journeys. It puts an end to the obligation to travel to neighbouring towns for training and games, a fact that until now has led to the loss of people practising this sport, especially the younger ones who depend on adults to take them there daily.

With the opening of the sports court, Almassora enters the regional circuit of Valencian Ball and becomes the venue for training and official games. The province of Castelló, thus, adds a new sports space for other smaller municipalities without the capacity to build and manage a similar facility to practice 'pilota'. Therefore, it fulfils the objective of structuring the territory from the sporting area.

- **High degree of coverage of the target population.**

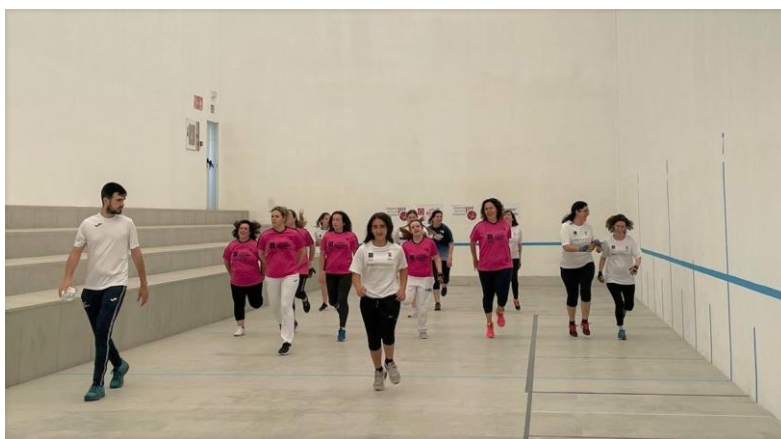
Monthly access to the site is estimated at 2,000 people. The universality of this measure means that the entire population will benefit from the effects of the operation. The Club Pelotari de Almassora, subsidised by the Almassora Town Council, manages the facility with free access for anyone and free entrance to the games in order to promote the coverage of the facility and the practice of sport without leaving the town.

In fact, the trinquete is located within the city bus route to promote sustainable travel for users to get to the sporting venue without using a private vehicle. There are also bike racks in the surrounding area to encourage the use of bicycles and electric scooters.

- **The action applies the horizontal criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, social responsibility and environmental sustainability.**

The action respects the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and accessibility. Thus, this action allows the integration, for the first time, of women in a trinquete in Almassora, while a sport traditionally practiced only by men, has ceased to be so to become parity.

This action is respectful of the regulations on equality between women and men and non-discrimination due to its general nature for all the citizens of Almassora. In addition, it meets accessibility criteria as it has a lift and ramps from the outside and eliminates any architectural barriers both inside and outside the court. The toilets are also adapted for people with disabilities.



In terms of environmental sustainability, the court is naturally ventilated from the north façade, so that it is not necessary to incorporate automatic air conditioning.

- **Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention.**

The initial plan for other locations for the Valencian Ball court was discarded in order to integrate the new trinquete next to the Almassora football pitch, opposite the Álvaro Falomir secondary school and next to a public school. This fact favours the practice of sports among schoolchildren, as part of the municipal health plan.

But its use goes beyond that. For this reason, it is part of the urban network of cycle lanes, also executed with FEDER funds, and of the efficient urban bus circuit to transport any resident to the court. It also has bike parking nearby for sustainable travel and is located a few metres from the municipal sports hall, so that Almassora thus configures a 'block' of health, an urban space in which the protagonist is sport.

Thanks to this initiative, the Almassora Town Council joins in the revival of traditional Valencian culture and is promoting healthy initiatives to prevent obesity and offer an alternative leisure activity.