

SPAIN

Improve the quality of life in rural areas

Location

Formentera

Programming period

2007 - 2013

Axis / Priority

Axis 3 – Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy

Measure

M321 - Basic services for the economy and rural population

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 179 132
EAFRD 42 257
National/region. 47 309
Private 89 566

Project duration

2014 – 2015

Project promoter

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Setting up a house locating system in the rural areas of Formentera island, Spain, made it easier for emergency services and other service providers to access isolated rural homes.

Summary

Between 70% and 75% of the population of the island of Formentera, Spain, live in traditional rural settlements. These settlements are dispersed and this makes access to services difficult. Part of the difficulty lies in locating isolated houses in case of emergency or if a service provider needs to reach them. The Council of Formentera aimed to solve the problem by using the possibilities offered by technology.



The project aimed to create a tracking system of all isolated houses in order to access them in an emergency. Additionally, the system can be used by other non-emergency services. The activities carried out included the allocation of an emergency code to every home and introduce it in a Territorial Information System; sign posts were placed in each house and tests were carried out to ensure the correct operation of the system. Finally, training was provided to the main users of the system (emergency services) and the general population.

Results

The tracking system has proven very effective in handling emergencies and the demand for other services by the population of the most isolated rural settlements.

The municipalities of the island of Ibiza are interested in implementing the same system in their territories.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Emergency systems serving scattered population need to be always reliable. Therefore, ensuring good quality and continuous maintenance of the Territorial Information System is essential.
- ❑ Such a service requires good coordination and acceptance of the system by all emergency services operating in the territory. The different organizational culture of each service may create problems in running the system effectively.



Context

Between 70% and 75% of the population of the island of Formentera, Spain, live in traditional rural settlements. These settlements are dispersed and this makes access to services difficult. Part of the difficulty lies in locating isolated houses in case of emergency or if a service provider needs to reach them.

Objectives

The Council of Formentera aimed to solve the problem by using the possibilities offered by technology.

Activities

The project aimed to create a tracking system of all isolated houses in order to access them in an emergency. Additionally, the system can be used by other non-emergency services. The activities carried out included the allocation of an emergency code to every home and introduce it in a Territorial Information System; sign posts were placed in each house and tests were carried out to ensure the correct operation of the system. Finally, training was provided to the main users of the system (emergency services) and the general population.

Main results

The tracking system has proven very effective in handling emergencies and the demand for other services by the population of the most isolated rural settlements.

The municipalities of the island of Ibiza are interested in implementing the same system in their territories.

Key lessons

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Such a service requires good coordination and acceptance of the system by all emergency services operating in the territory. The different organizational culture of each service may create problems in running the system effectively.

Additional sources of information

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