


Urban Agendas / planning, SUD Strategies, Public Space, Urban Model

Circular Economy, Waste Management

Urban Poverty, Deprived Neighbourhoods, Housing, Social Cohesion

 Digital Transition & Smart City

 Climate Change & Energy Transition

 Post-COVID Recovery – social justice and social inclusion

General Socio-economic Profile

Fuenlabrada is a municipality located in the south of the Madrid metropolitan area with the highest number of production units (15,534), 95% of which are considered micro-businesses. The main economic activities in Fuenlabrada are industry and services. The city has developed from a small agricultural town in the 1960s to an industrial and service city at the beginning of the 21st century. Its labor market is highly dependent on the municipality of Madrid. Fuenlabrada has a proven track record of transformation. The city has structured itself towards growth without planning. Its transformed residential areas welcomed workers from other regions and cities by providing them with basic services (infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and green spaces). Fuenlabrada has also developed new areas for residential and industrial growth with high urban value, which help shape a compact and structured city with facilities comparable to a large city. The city also has universities, hospitals, mortuary and waste treatment plant, among others, that help maintain economic activities in all sectors. Fuenlabrada has become a model city of circular economy, waste treatment and the integration of national and international migrants.

Fuenlabrada



200,143



39.41 km²



©Google Earth



©Zarateman, CC BY-SA 3.0

Good Practices

Fuenlabrada's main urban strategies and expertise focus on the following themes:

Urban development. Fuenlabrada has overcome the urban growth model in the 1980s and 90s, and focuses on providing basic urban services. The city follows new urban strategic frameworks such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Urban Agenda for the EU and Spain, and adopts a participatory and interdisciplinary approach. Main urban projects: 1. Urban regeneration of the city centre; 2. Building energy efficiency retrofit; 3. Green infrastructure; 4. Urban mobility; E. New economic activity

Circular economy. Fuenlabrada has one of the highest recycling rate of paper in Spain, thanks to its dense container network across the city and campaigns to raise citizen awareness. An extensive presence of waste management companies that cover the region of Madrid (36 companies) contribute to this circular specialisation and job creation.

Fighting urban poverty. Fuenlabrada is a pioneer in social integration with a wide variety of projects that increase immigrants' access to employment.

Preferred Areas of Cooperation

- **Urban Agenda/Planning.** Fuenlabrada's main challenge is to revitalise its central district, which has suffered progressive deterioration, loss of economic and administrative activities, obsolete urban fabric as well as declining public space. It has greatly reduced the attractiveness of this municipal reference point to citizens. Fuenlabrada wishes to learn from other cities to address this challenge, and to adopt a fully integrated approach to regenerating the historical centre through urban renewal, housing retrofit, green infrastructure, mobility and economic boost.
- **Circular Economy.** As a model city for waste collection and management, Fuenlabrada wishes to learn from other cities about urban planning. The city is willing to share its rich experience and knowledge in waste management with other IURC cities. A number of companies dedicated to circular economy have chosen Fuenlabrada as their headquarters. The City Council has introduced many targeted collection policies and citizen awareness programmes to achieve one of the highest recycling rates in the region.
- **Sharing experience in integration and employment.** Fuenlabrada is one of the seven European cities to develop an Urban Innovation Action for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees, which considers the role of employment in the acculturation process.
- **The City Council implements an integrated working approach that promotes collaboration among different areas, and proposes to build a multi-disciplinary core team with various partners for the IURC programme.** The goal is to cover all levels of governance work on sustainable urban development, and to address strategic issues on the agendas, which are necessary for the development of urban life.