



ZARAGOZA, Spain

The Ricardo Magdalena Employment Workshop

Key facts

From early 2020 to early 2021, the Ricardo Magdalena Employment Workshop promoted training and employment for 32 unemployed people over 25 years in a number of cities in Spain, including the city of Zaragoza.

Timeframe and funding	The programme ran for a period of 12 months (early 2020 to early 2021) and was funded partly by transfers from regional government and partly by the city-level budget.
City population	666,880
Governing body	Zaragoza City Council
Link	http://etrmagdalena.zaragozadinamica.net/

Main objectives

The key objective of the programme was:

- For the students to acquire professional competences through a mixed process of employment and training within four overall subject areas: rehabilitation of building, construction, painting and gardening.

Content and mode of delivery



Over a 12 months period, the students acquired work experience and obtained a professional certification that improved their possibility of returning to the labour market. At the end of the workshop, the students received a Certificate of Professionalism, an official accreditation that can be useful in the search for employment. What made the workshop different from other types of adult learning and employment support programmes was the fact that it combined theoretical and practical training with the realisation of a productive activity. From the onset of the workshop, an apprenticeship contract is signed between the promoting entity and the student. The remuneration received for work cannot be less than the Inter-professional Minimum Wage.

Another key characteristic of the workshops were that the jobs and services performed by the students were of public utility and interest. In the city of Zaragoza, the workshop focused on rehabilitation of buildings, including the eastern pavilion at the entrance to the city cemetery (Torrero). Thanks to the programme, it has been possible for the city of Zaragoza to preserve and rehabilitate deteriorated buildings that otherwise would not have had a second chance due to the high costs of their works. This community building became usable once the workshop concluded and in this way, the workshops have fulfilled two missions: on the one hand the training of the unemployed and on the other the architectural rehabilitation. In addition, the building rehabilitation module was made up entirely of unemployed women, which is a novelty of this type of training project.

Stakeholders



One of the key stakeholders involved in the programme is the authorities of the Aragon Autonomous Community, which have provided the grant subsidies to cover part of the salary costs of the entities promoting the workshop.

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