



## Ciudad Real (ES)

Ciudad Real is the capital of the province with the same name in the region of Castilla-La Mancha, and it is located 180 km (as the crow flies) to the south of Madrid and 270 km to the north of Seville. Its 74,872 inhabitants (2013) plus the 14,856 inhabitants of the adjacent city of Miguelturra generate an urban area of around 90,000 inhabitants. It is important to mention the very important floating population of around 10,000 university students.

Ciudad Real has High Speed Rail (HSR) services since 1992, highly improving its connection to Madrid and many other destinations in the south (Cordoba, Seville and Malaga), the northeast (Barcelona and Zaragoza), and the east (Valencia and Alicante) increasing the city's accessibility through the HSR network. The HSR station was built in a completely new location at the eastern edge of the city and reused part of the old rail tracks (Fig 1). Today, the station is surrounded by the city, although its integration in the urban pattern is missing and the non-motorised access is not very well solved (Fig 2). In addition, the potential attractiveness of the HSR Station as pole in the city has not been developed.



*Urban developments around in the HSR Station proximities in Ciudad Real. Source: Google Maps*

The main characteristic of Ciudad Real in the territorial situations created by the high speed train is the fact of being close to a big metropolitan area such as Madrid (55 minutes, > 5 million inhabitants). But Ciudad Real wants to be something else than a satellite residential city; it wants to develop its own identity. Ciudad Real must take advantage of its positive advantages in relation to Madrid. One of the main achievements of the Enter-Hub project is the mere knowledge and perspective share among the different members of the USLG. Searching for additional sources of funding for a sustainable intervention in both the short- and long-terms is crucial. It is envisaged as potential sources of funding the national and regional funding programmes, the City of Ciudad Real, and especially URBACT III, URBAN, and both the ERDF and ESF programmes. However, the majority of the proposed actions involve very few risks because they do not need a great monetary investment.



*Access to and from the HSR station in Ciudad Real. Source: Google Maps*

Having in mind this previous situation, the Local Action Plan in Ciudad Real has four main objectives:

- 1. Integration of the HSR station with the surroundings and its connection to the city centre, the University and to other main urban nodes (i.e. hospital).**

This goal is oriented to the non-motorised mobility. Ciudad Real is a very dense and compact city with reduced distances, satisfying the main conditions for having a good pedestrian and bicycle network. The access time from the station to the city centre, the hospital or the University is around 15-20 minutes by foot, and much less by bike. However, the quality of the pedestrian/bike connections is quite poor and it is necessary to improve it.
- 2. Encouragement of information/communication connections between the HSR station and the city.**

Having a HSR station makes necessary to establish or develop strategies to reinforce the connection between the decision-makers of the city and the Spanish railway infrastructure manager (ADIF) in order to carry out integrated policies in benefit of the city and its citizens.
- 3. Reinforcement of the HSR station as an activity pole.**

The HSR station is in many cities an important pole, involving commercial and business activities that transform the station from an exclusive transportation node to an interesting place of the city. Also, the tertiary activities make the most of the accessibility given by the HSR system.
- 4. Favouring the tourism experience and maximize the city amenities.**

The potential tourism market that can be attracted through the HSR system, especially from Madrid, should be taken into consideration. When arriving to the HSR station, tourists should have information concerning hotels and restaurants, tourist locations and the public transport offer to reach them. In addition, an adequate pedestrian/bike route from the station would improve their experience in the city.