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Monday to Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m

# EUROPAN 16. LIVING CITIES

**Brief**

**Almendralejo**

**Alzira**

**Barcelona**

**Beizama**

**Espareguera/Colònia Sedó**

**Madrid**

**Roquetas de Mar**

## ALMENDRALEJO, INHABITABLE TEMPORALITY

The aim of EUROPAN is to bring young professionals involved in planning, landscaping and architectural projects into this European debate forum, and encourage them to develop and publicising their ideas for a European and international audience.

EUROPAN also aims to help the public authorities and promoters that provide the sites to receive innovative architectural and urban planning solutions. EUROPAN is an anonymous, public, open design competition.

The Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda hosts this competition in Spain, and strives to facilitate commissions by the public bodies participating in EUROPAN Spain for the winning proposals. For this purpose, the terms defined in the tender conditions match the procedures for Project Competitions adjudicated by a Jury as defined in articles 183 et seq. of the Public Sector Contracts Act. Compliance with the conditions set out in the EUROPAN 16 Regulations and in the aforementioned law is therefore guaranteed.

For this reason, teams competing for a site in Spain should make themselves familiar with the EUROPAN 16 Regulations for Jury-supervised Project Competitions, published on the Spanish Contracting Platform at the following web address:

### EUROPAN 16/SPAIN COMMITTEE

#### Chair

Ministry for Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda

#### Management

Directorate-General of the Urban Agenda and Architecture, Ministry for Transport, Mobility and the Urban Agenda / Higher Council of Architects' Guilds (CSCAE)

#### Site sponsor members

Barcelona City Council / Madrid City Council / Roquetas de Mar City Council / Directorate-General for Housing and Architecture, Government of Cantabria / Directorate-General for Architecture & Building Quality, Government of Extremadura / Directorate-General for Environmental Innovation in Construction, Government of Valenciana / Directorate-General for Housing and Architecture, Basque Government / INCASÓL

#### Associate members

Almendralejo City Council/ Alzira City Council / Beizama Municipal Council / Esparreguera City Council / ADIF

### EUROPAN- SPAIN SECRETARIAT

Carmen Imbernón, Secretary-General

Begoña Fernández-Shaw, Management and implementation monitoring

### EUROPAN SPAIN JURY

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2. Rocío Peña, architect, San Sebastian. [www.ganchegui.com](http://www.ganchegui.com).
3. Eva Luque, architect, teacher. Almería. [www.elap.es](http://www.elap.es).
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6. Eduard Bru, architect, urban planner, teacher. Barcelona
7. Niek Hazendonk. Landscaper. The Netherlands
8. Socrates Stratis. Architect, urban planner, teacher. Cyprus. Member of EUROPAN Europe Scientific Committee. [www.socratesstratis.com](http://www.socratesstratis.com)
9. Tina Gregoric Slovenia/Austria. <https://www.dekleva-gregoric.com/profile>

**Substitute:** Arantza Ozaeta, architect, EUROPAN former winner. Madrid. [www.tallerde2.com](http://www.tallerde2.com)



**PRIZES**

EUROPAN/Spain envisages seven possible first prizes and 7 second prizes, plus any special mentions deemed advisable by the jury. First-prize teams will receive €12,000.00, second prizes €6,000.00.

In Spain, EUROPAN prizes are exempt from withholding tax under a RESOLUTION of 5 April 2006 by the Tax Administration Department of the National Tax Agency, an exemption envisaged in Article 7.1 of Royal Legislative Decree 3/2004 of 5 March.

**SPECIFIC COMPETITION SITE DETAILS****SITE REPRESENTATIVE**

Directorate-General for Architecture & Building Quality, Government of Extremadura and Almendralejo City Council

**ACTORS INVOLVED**

Almendralejo Municipal Council

**REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEAM PROFILE**

Architect

**Competencias del equipo de acuerdo con los objetivos, las características y el programa del emplazamiento.**

In consideration of the profile described in the section above, and the professional attributes of a Higher Architecture degree in Spain according to the Higher Council of Architects' Guilds, architects do have competence in issues relating to both construction and urban planning. Therefore, any professional with such a degree is qualified to fulfil the objectives for the Almendralejo site.

**TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

The EUROPAN 16/Spain invitation for proposals and results will be published on the State Procurement Platform, the Official Spanish Government Gazette and a major national newspaper. The results will also be publicised by the Spanish Architects' Guild and the specialist media.

The results of EUROPAN/Spain are exhibited and published in a catalogue of prize-winning projects and special mentions. This exhibition of the national results is itinerant.

The winning teams are invited to participate in events to present their proposals and debates at both the national and international level.

**FIRST JURY MEETING**

The site representatives participate in the first jury session with the right to speak and vote.

**PROCEDURE FOLLOWING THE JURY DECISION**

Immediately after the jury's decision, the EUROPAN-Spain winning teams are invited to present their projects to the site authorities. This is followed by an initial round table discussion involving members of the jury.

**PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSIONING FOLLOWING THE JURY'S DECISION:**

The site promoters and associate members or their delegated representatives (local bodies, regional governments or legal public authorities) are recognised as contracting bodies with the power to award the service contract at each site under a non-advertised negotiated tender procedure for the competition winner or one of the prize-winners. In the latter case, all winning teams (prize winners and special mentions) must be invited to take part in the negotiations.

**POST-COMPETITION COMMISSION**

Urban Planning document (Detail Study, Special Interior Reform Plan or other). Housing renewal project.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION & SITE SUMMARY.

The proposed site is in a strategic location at the intersection of three highways (N-630, EX-105 and EX-212) and near the A66 “Silver Route” motorway and the ancient Roman “Vía de la Plata”. It is also relatively close to several major cities including Badajoz, Mérida, Seville, Cordoba and Lisbon.

Almendralejo is the fourth most populated municipality in the Badajoz province. Its economy is primarily agricultural, and many seasonal jobs are available during the grape and olive harvest. During this period, seasonal workers can form a floating population of 7,000-9,000 people, mainly ethnic Roma from Romanian who live in the San José district. The project area is located precisely in this district, in a zone known as “Los Pisos del Marqués”, 18 apartment blocks containing a total of 160 dwellings.

Competitors are invited to draft urban renewal, urban regeneration and community regeneration proposals which will facilitate social cohesion in the neighbourhood and provide quality housing.



Image 1. Oblique aerial view of the Almendralejo area.

## 2. SITE SPECIFICS

SCALE: Urban, architectural

LOCATION: San José district, Almendralejo (Badajoz), Spain

CATEGORY: Territorial / Urban / Architectural

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEAM PROFILE: ARCHITECT

POPULATION: 33,474 in 2019 (Male 16,595 / Female 16,879)

STUDY AREA: 75,000 ha / PROJECT AREA: 2.1 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY: Architecture & Building Quality Directorate-General, Government of Extremadura. / OTHER AGENTS INVOLVED: Almendralejo City Council.

SITE OWNERSHIP: Public & private.

POST-COMPETITION COMMISSION: Urban Planning document (Detail Study, Special Interior Reform Plan or other). Housing renewal project.

### 3. SITE PRESENTATION

#### 3.1. PHYSICAL FEATURES.

##### 3.1.1. Site.

Almendralejo is the capital of the Tierra de Barros County, in the centre of Badajoz Province, Extremadura Autonomous Region (western Spain). It is 28.4 km from the provincial capital, Badajoz.



Image 2. Location of Almendralejo in the Extremadura Region.

### 3.1.2. History.

Almendralejo owes its name to the original settlement on land covered with almond trees, although its origins are somewhat uncertain. Archaeological remains indicate the presence of inhabitants in Almendralejo from the earliest times, but it was settled under the Order of Santiago after the Reconquest, possibly in the 13th century. The present-day town is thought to date back to 1228 when, according to tradition, it was founded by farm labourers from Mérida.

Its heritage includes the parish church of La Purificación, which has a Baroque tower and beautiful Gothic-Renaissance façades with epigraphic and plateresque ornamentation.



Image 3. La Purificación church tower.



Image 4. Círculo Mercantil. Example of ornamented buildings in Almendralejo.

The subsequent Neo-classical de-ornamentation trend influenced the town's domestic architecture, introducing a preference for plain façades and simple, regular fenestration. This simplicity later extended to apartment blocks on narrow plots, characteristic of 19th century bourgeois housing architecture in major towns.

For the purposes of the EUROPAN project, it is important to note that agricultural and industrial activity in the 19th and 20th centuries gave rise to interesting public and semi-private service architecture, along with with urban transformations, all of which merit a detailed study.



### 3.1.3. Urban structure.

The town has always been characterised by its long, broad, straight streets, its wine cellars, olive groves and its acorn liquor industry. The streets are lined with large one and two-storey houses, whitewashed (*enjalbegada*\*) throughout, with large wrought iron grating on the ground floor windows and balconies on the upper floor, which give it a bright, uniform aspect, somewhat reminiscent of Andalusia.

(\**Enjalbegada*: typical local rendering technique, using lime, plaster or white clay)

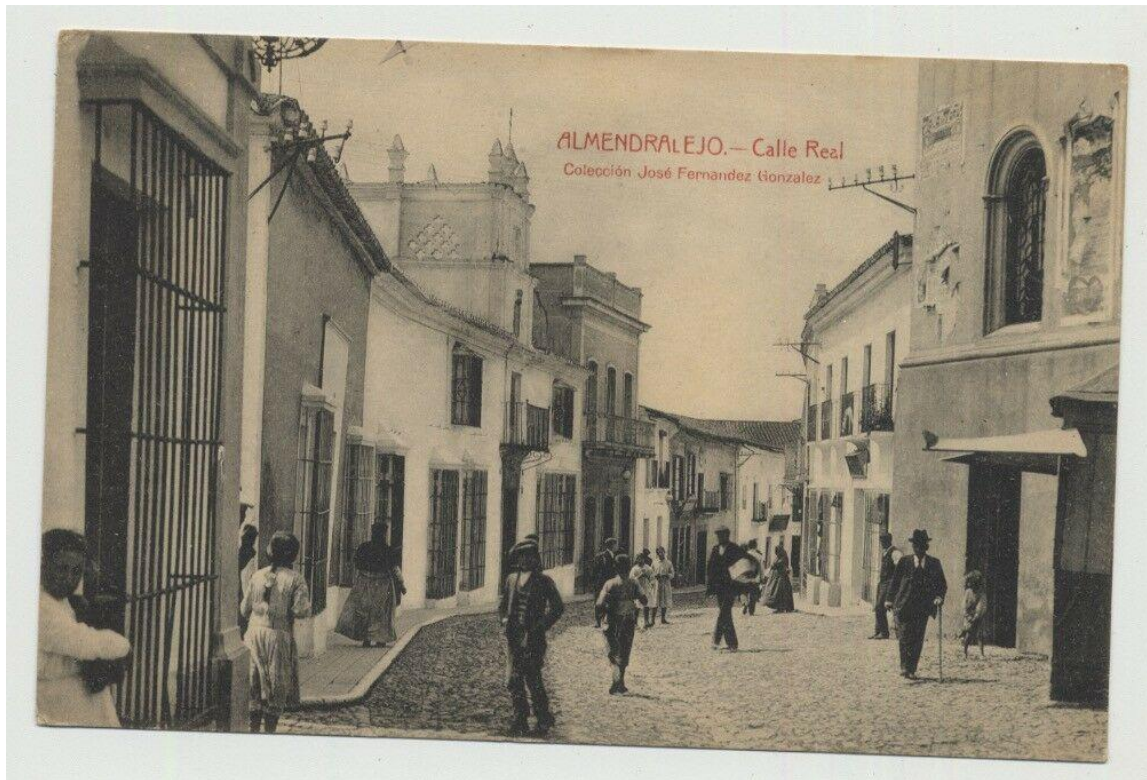


Image 5. Calle Real in 1960.

The following map shows the age of Almendralejo's buildings.

Details from the Property Records, updated in October 2019.



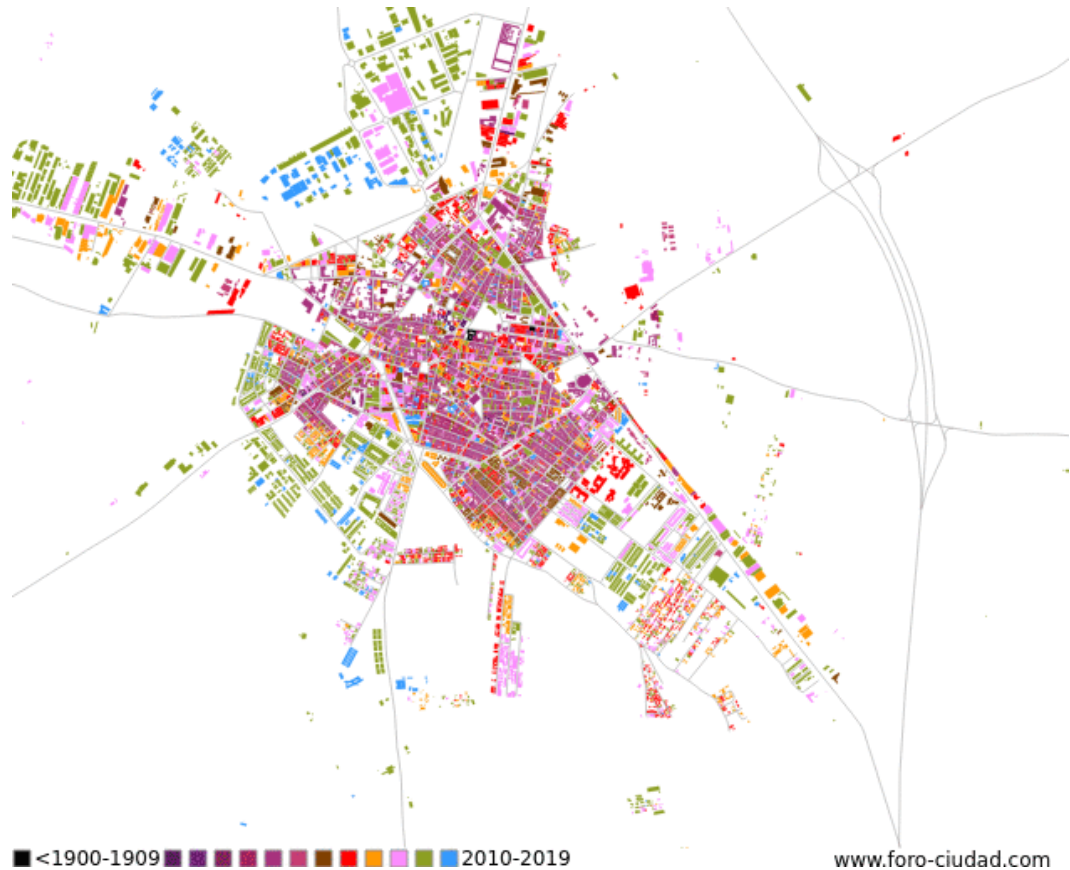


Image 6. Building ages shown by decade. INE.

This map illustrates the growth of Almendralejo over time. Each colour represents a decade, except for black, which represents all buildings prior to 1900, normally the historic quarter.

The table below shows the built area in m<sup>2</sup> per decade, and the town’s position in the national and provincial list.

Superficie Construida				
Decada	% Total		Top Provincial	Top Nacional*
<1900	0.16%		<- 11° ->	<- 2499° ->
1900-1909	0.28%		<- 56° ->	<- 3751° ->
1910-1919	0.04%		<- 40° ->	<- 2765° ->
1920-1929	0.38%		<- 37° ->	<- 1387° ->
1930-1939	1.05%		<- 15° ->	<- 442° ->
1940-1949	10.97%		1° ->	<- 28° ->
1950-1959	3.29%		<- 14° ->	<- 216° ->
1960-1969	4.47%		<- 9° ->	<- 383° ->
1970-1979	9.74%		<- 5° ->	<- 349° ->
1980-1989	10.29%		<- 4° ->	<- 316° ->
1990-1999	16.82%		<- 4° ->	<- 206° ->
2000-2009	35.22%		<- 4° ->	<- 157° ->
2010-2019	7.29%		<- 3° ->	<- 126° ->

Image 7. Table of built land in the town per decade. INE.

#### 3.1.4. Infrastructure.

Almendralejo's position as an administrative locality explains its influence as a hub for a relatively large area. A comparison with other scales is necessary to assess both the initial situation and the future horizon that the municipality can be expected to move towards.

Nearby major road transport infrastructure includes the A-66 "Autovía de la Plata" (Silver Motorway), which runs through the Almendralejo municipality, linking Spain from north to south along a western axis and drawing the town closer to Seville, Mérida, Cáceres and Plasencia, among other centres of regional and national importance.

In addition, the Extremadura Motorway (A-5) to Madrid is less than 15 minutes from Almendralejo, north of the A-66. To the west, the EX 301 connects Almendralejo to Badajoz, the province capital, and the A-5, on the way to Lisbon.

#### 3.1.5. Landscape

The Badajoz province landscape is full of meadows and wide plains. Some of Extremadura's best wines are produced in Almendralejo and the surrounding area.

The landscape is thus uniquely characterised by its vineyards and wineries, large waterbodies and Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs).

#### Crops and wineries

Renowned as an international wine city, Almendralejo is surrounded by many wineries scattered across the municipality, and its grapevines give the town a peculiar skyline. They also provide jobs and boost tourism, attracting thousands of visitors every year.



Image 8. Tourist initiatives, with routes to vineyards and cellars in Almendralejo.

These tourists usually complement their stay with guided tours around the city's cultural, historical and monumental heritage, with activities related to the wine culture, sparkling wines, olive groves and oil, and the broad realm connected to the sector.

The town's Wine Museum is located at an important tourist focal point beside the bullring (unique for its wine cellar under the stands) and Our Lady of Mercy Sanctuary, dedicated to the patron saint of Almendralejo.



Image 9. Tourist focal point: Wine Museum and Bullring

One of the main objectives of this Museum is to promote Extremadura's wine culture and highlight the ethnographic and industrial heritage of the Tierra de Barros wine-growing district

Image 10. Wine Museum, Almendralejo.





### **Rivers**

The Almendralejo landscape includes several relatively large waterbodies. The biggest one is 18 km away, the Alange reservoir, and two others are a little further afield: the Matachel Mills reservoir, 45 km downstream, and the Nogales reservoir, 42 km to the NW.

The watercourses close to Almendralejo include Arroyo Sancho and Arroyo del Husero to the NW, and at a lower altitude, further away, Arroyo de Bonabal and Arroyo de Harnina. Another watercourse, Arroyo del Charnecal, runs through Almendralejo itself.

These reservoirs and watercourses define a characteristic landscape of great visual quality which changes with the water level.

### **Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs)**

The Extremadura Region was a pioneer for the European Union in the designation of protected natural areas in urban contexts.

Almendralejo is one of the most important "homes" to the lesser kestrel, a small falcon classified as "vulnerable". It was Europe's first Special Protection Area for Birds (Natura 2000 Network) in an urban setting. This SPA, declared in 2003, has boosted the area's economy thanks to the tourist interest in these birds.



Image 11. Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*).



Image 12. La Purificación church tower.

The common denominator for these SPAs is that they are all located in villages and towns with buildings or historic centres of great heritage value. At least 30 buildings that host Lesser kestrel colonies in urban SPAs have been declared "Sites of Cultural Interest" (BIC).

In Almendralejo, they nest in the Gothic La Purificación church, whose tower was destroyed in 1936 during the Civil War. Most of the pairs are in artificial nesting boxes sheltered by the roof or outdoor positions, which have been installed over the years by an NGO, DEMA. These facilities host 80 of the estimated 100 pairs of Lesser kestrels in this SPA.



Image 13. Species observation & conservation.

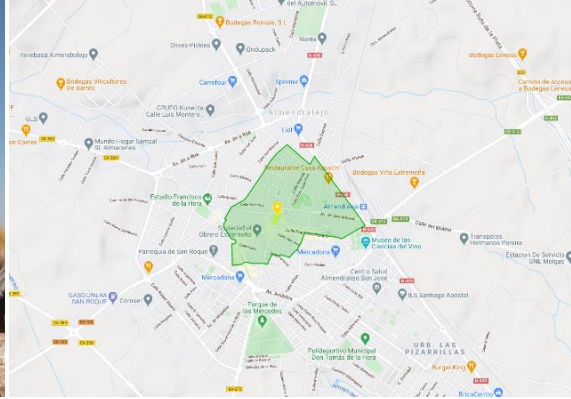


Image 14. Area of Almendralejo designated as an urban SPA.

Local enthusiasts have started to build hand-crafted nesting boxes out of cork and lime, making them resistant, sustainable and efficient. They are 99% recyclable and ensure optimum insulation and shelter for the species.



Image 15. Nest location.



Image 16. Locally built nesting boxes



Image 17. Church observatory.

To encourage the general public's involvement and participation in environmental awareness-raising activity focused on the conservation of this species, the Almendralejo SPA site has installed an observatory at the same height as the roof of the Purificación Church, with direct views of the colony. 98% of the pairs in the municipality nest on the church roof and tower.

### Territorial context

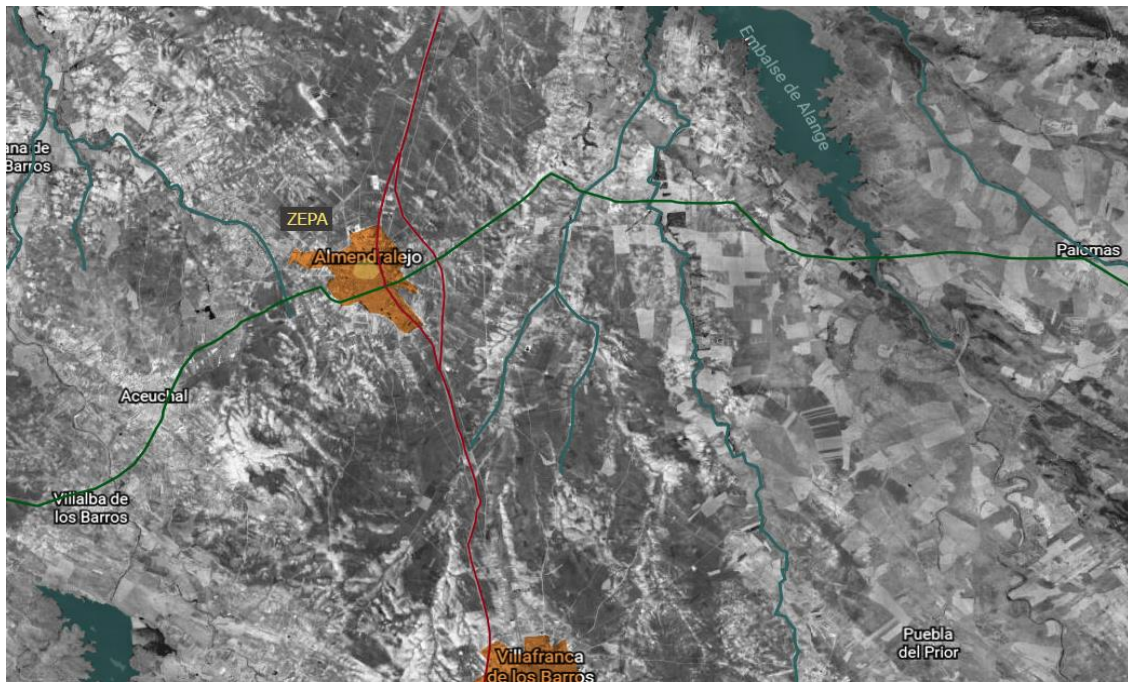


Image 18. Territorial context of de Almendralejo

## 3.2. SCALES: REQUIREMENTS.

### 3.2.1. Territorial scale.

Almendralejo's urban development is influenced by its location at both the provincial and the county scale. It is located at one end of a virtual T marked by the biggest municipalities in the province, Badajoz, Mérida and Villanueva de la Serena/Don Benito, and the region's most important transportation routes, the east-west A5 and the north-south A66 motorway.

Almendralejo, capital of the Tierra de Barros county, has close bonds with the other municipalities, especially Villafranca de los Barros, the second-largest town. Almendralejo has become the county's industrial hub, where most of its tertiary services are located along with intense agricultural activity, especially in the wine and oil sector.

Perhaps for this reason, Almendralejo's industrial land is heavily fragmented, concentrated in the northern part of the town but also including isolated buildings which hinder the most suitable type of development on this type of land.



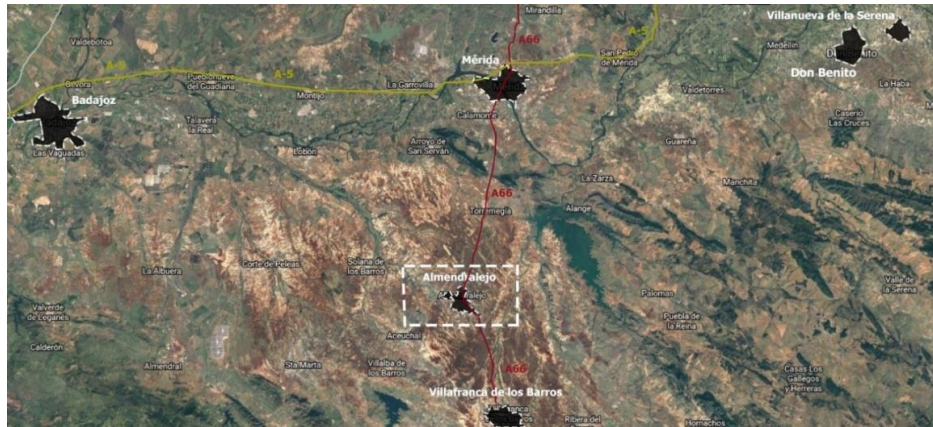


Image 19. Territorial scale of the proposal.

### 3.2.2. Study scale.

The climate is quite dry, with mild winters and hot summers. The fertile, nutrient-rich soils have made this one of Spain's largest wine-producing areas.

The millennial Silver Route running through the town, has turned it into a developed city with thriving industries of all kinds and an economy based on traditional wine and olive growing. Almendralejo is one of the economic mainstays of the whole Autonomous Region.

The area is surrounded on two sides by cropland, located on some of Extremadura's most fertile soil. Almendralejo, a residential area for the tertiary sector, has always been inhabited by workers serving this part of the economy.



Image 20. Study scale of the proposal.

Some basic parameters must be defined to ensure the success of the transformation in this area and guarantee an appropriate combination between the territory and the varied uses it hosts.

### **Spaces and uses**

Conversion and merger of different spaces and neighbourhoods, erasing the current social exclusion, and regeneration of common urban spaces.

The Almendralejo town centre is in the centre-south of the municipality, quite close to the historic Silver Route. It includes the old quarter of Almendralejo, composed of traditional houses and many architecturally unique elements. To the NW of this centre there is a small housing hub composed mainly of the San Marcos housing estate, with a low-density scattered rural-urban zone in the surrounding area.

### **Productive space**

The town's wealth is mainly thanks to its very fertile land, largely used for olive groves and vineyards planted at the start of the 19th century, then replanted in the present century, along with the derivative processing industries including large-scale production of oil, wine and other alcoholic beverages such as champagne.

Around Almendralejo there are many hectares of crops, the base of the town's economy.



Image 21. Vineyards in Almendralejo.

### **Industrial Area**

Almendralejo's industries, predominantly small and medium-sized companies, are mainly concentrated around the main population hub, especially to the north.

Most of the industries are in the agri-food sector, focused particularly on Almendralejo's traditional primary materials, olives and grapes. There are also many workshops and a variety of services.



### Infrastructure

The railway easement has created a barrier effect. The strip between the railway line and the N-630 highway is occupied by buildings alternating between residential and industrial-tertiary uses, with no typological or visual unity. On the other side of the road there are industrial and warehouse sites, also lacking any particular order.

Nevertheless, Highway N-630, the “Silver Route”, has been the backbone for the growth of the town’s original urban fabric. The town centre boundary is marked by this road and also by the road to Aceuchal. The N-630 has a heterogeneous frontage, perhaps because for a long time, it was a by-pass more than an urban road.

#### **3.2.3. Project scale.**

The EUROPAN project area has a considerable degree of urban quality in terms of its facilities. The San José district, where the project area is located, has a wide range of educational facilities including two secondary schools, two infant and primary schools and an adult education centre. Its proximity to the Municipal Sports Centre facilitates the use of many sporting activities and the proximity of the bus station, the courts, the Palace of Wine and Oil, and the Oenological Station, should generate a degree of social activity in this neighbourhood. However, the general feeling of the neighbourhood’s residents is one of insecurity, lack of coexistence and lack of civic mindedness.



Image 22. Project scale.



The objective sought —for both the project and the study scale— is the regeneration of the inhabited environments. The transformation of this part of the city must adapt to several premises: living metabolisms, inclusivity and dignified habitability for seasonal workers.

#### Living metabolisms

In planning terms, the urban strategy pursued by the administration aims to implement a regeneration project which will endow this part of the city with the necessary conditions that will facilitate its integration with the rest of the San José district.

This will help us to see the city as an ecosystem in which reuse and respect for what already exists must be encouraged, thus arriving at the renovation of buildings by means of recycled materials, giving them a new life cycle.

Images 23,24 and 25. Images of San José district.



#### Social inclusion

Social inclusion is the indispensable social component needed to tackle the segregation and the serious inequalities found in our cities. Permanent access to the spaces generated by the initiative must be ensured, while also facilitating the integration of people with disabilities.

Several inclusive dynamics are now being implemented in the neighbourhood. A taskforce has been created to implement several initiatives focused on the immigrant community. It is to be a mediator "between the locally-born neighbours and the immigrant population". For more than a year, an NGO, 'Medicos del Mundo' (2018) has also been doing intercultural mediation work in the neighbourhood, as well as social/health care. In addition, the 'Crisol' initiative promoted by the City Council is expected to benefit 140 people. Focused on groups at risk of social exclusion, it will be added to the programme.

Language and other aspects related to the culture of the itinerant neighbours hinder their access to decent working conditions, health and social services. Romanian women in particular face even greater barriers.

The aim is therefore to turn segregated zones into spaces for exchange, co-learning and biodiversity that will facilitate the group's integration.

#### Habitability of seasonal worker accomodation

During the months of the grape and olive harvest, there is a floating population of 7,000 to 9,000 people, mainly Romanians dubbed as "temporeros", who are concentrated into this project scale. They live in precarious sub-standard settlements, in excessively small dwellings (50 - 60 m<sup>2</sup>), usually shared by several family units, although none of the apartments has more than 3 bedrooms. The infrastructure and both interior and outward-facing rooms have deteriorated due to years of neglect, leading to appalling living conditions.

As a result, the real social and family life of this population (children, women and men), takes place on the street for many hours of the day during non-working hours in the afternoon and evening, due to the impossibility of living together in such restricted and poorly-equipped spaces. Extreme summer temperatures also create a stifling atmosphere, a further incentive to spill into the streets. Social relations therefore take place on the pavements and roads, ultimately causing conflicts with the neighbours.

Architecturally, competitors must address the renovation of existing houses, upgrade their habitability conditions as dwellings and also recover spaces for socialisation. The deterioration of the outer walls, many of which have crumbled or deteriorated, must also be resolved. Concepts such as reuse and recycling shall be encouraged in this renewal context.



Image 26, 27 y 28. Images of dwellings in San José.

The EUROPAN proposal involves the renovation and urban regeneration of 174 dwellings known as "Pisos del Marqués", located in the south-east of the municipality and included in the Project Area, in order to ensure access to public infrastructures and to make decent housing a reality for every person in the neighbourhood.



Image 29. Housing blocks to be renovated.

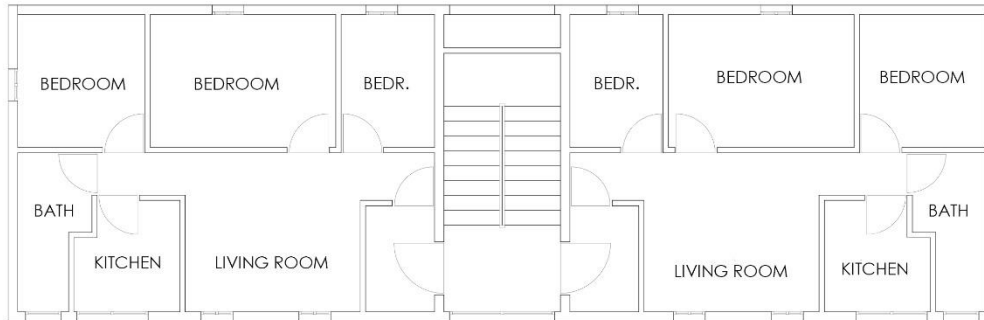


### Dwelling types

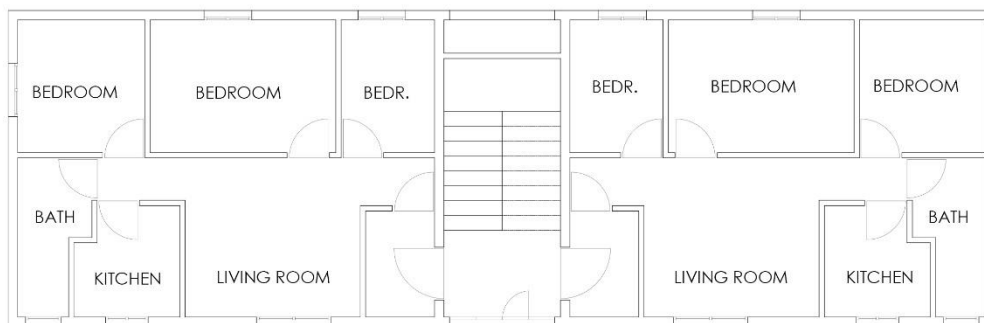
There are 174 dwellings, distributed across 17 blocks, with 8 different types of block.

Zone 1 contains blocks 1.1 to 1.9, all with the same characteristics and shape. They all have a single entrance, a rectangular floor plan and 5 stories. The central common area operates as a distributor for two apartments per floor (symmetrical) and also as a vertical communication core.

Each dwelling consists of three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and bathroom.



**TOP FLOORS**



**GROUND FLOORS**

[Image 30](#). Standard plan of Blocks 1.1 to 1.9.

In Zone 2, Blocks 2.1 and 2.2 are joined together, as are Blocks 2.3 and 2.4. They all have a single entrance through a central courtyard, which provides access to each block. They are trapezoidal in shape and have four stories. The only difference between them is the number of dwellings per floor.

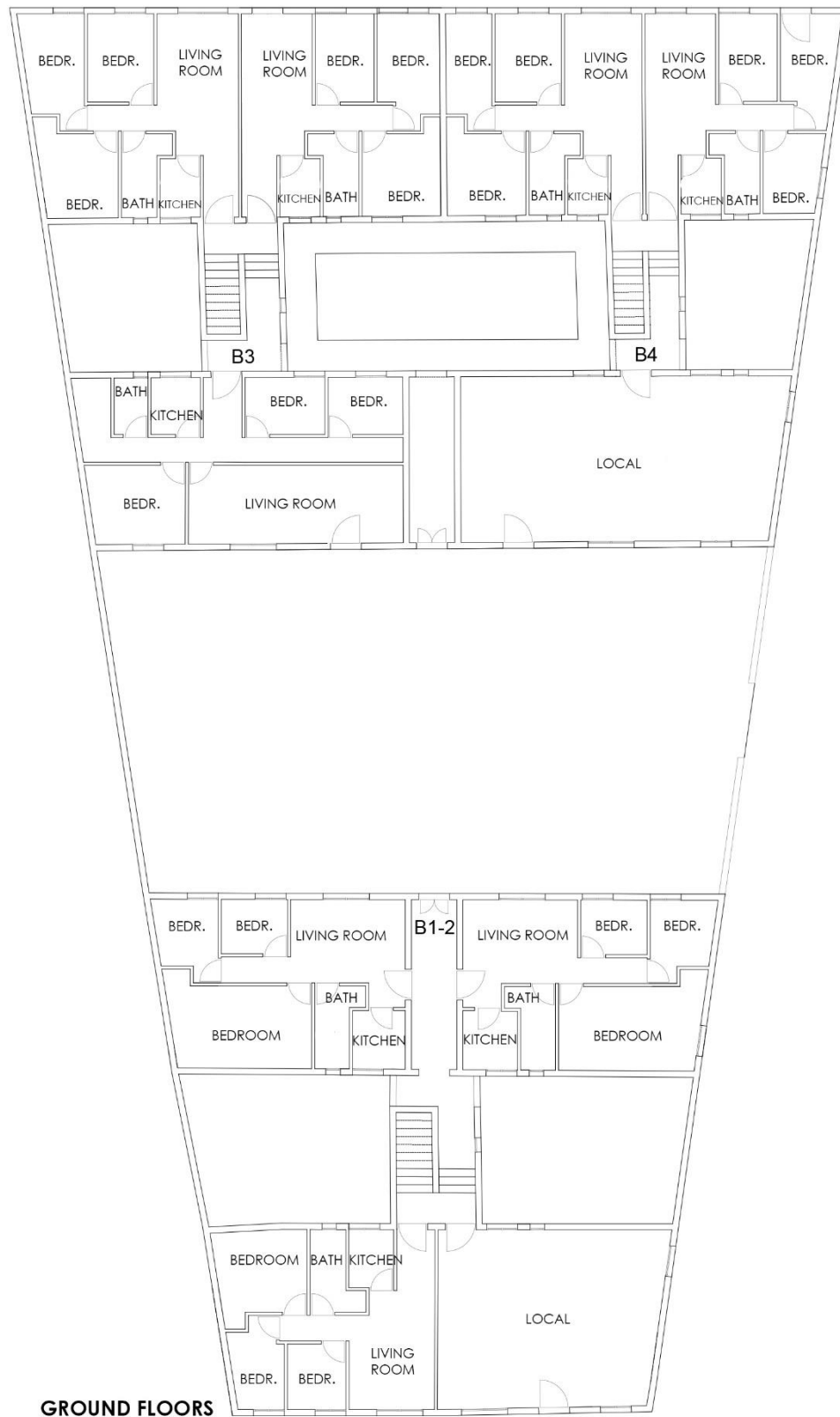
Blocks 2.1 and 2.2 are organised around a central common area, where the vertical communication core is located. There are two dwellings per floor (symmetrical) in each block, except for the ground floor of block 2.2, where one of the dwellings has been converted into a shop.

Each dwelling consists of three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom.

In Blocks 2.3 and 2.4, the only difference is that there are three apartments per floor, although each flat has the same number of spaces.

In addition, Block 2.4 repeats the same ground floor layout as Block 2.2, with one of the dwellings converted into a shop.

**Image 31.** Standard plan of Blocks 2.1 to 2.4.



Zone 3 contains Blocks 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4. Blocks 3.1 and 3.4 are exactly the same and are described together. All four blocks have four floors.

Blocks 3.1 and 3.4 are on a trapezoidal plan with a single entrance. They are organised around a central common zone where the vertical communication core is located. Four dwellings per floor (symmetrical) are distributed in each block.

Each dwelling consists of three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom.



## GROUND FLOORS

Image 32. Standard plan of Blocks 3.1 and 3.4.

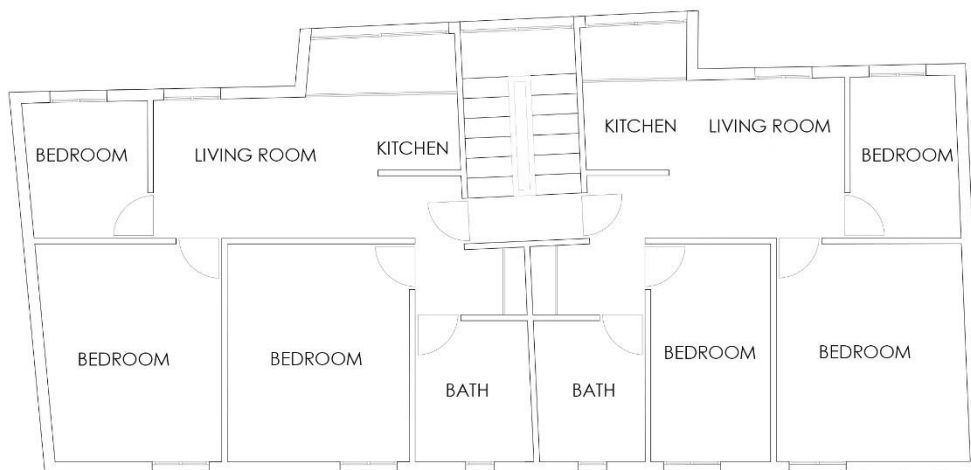
Block 3.2 has a trapezoidal shape but resembles a rectangle with an overhang. It has a single entrance and is organised around a common central zone where the vertical communication core is located. There are two dwellings per floor (symmetrical) in this block.

Each dwelling has three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom.





### GROUND FLOOR



### TOP FLOORS

[Image 33](#). Standard floor plan for Block 3.2.

Block 3.3 has a trapezoidal shape, but resembles an L. It has a single entrance and is organised around a central common zone, where the vertical communication core is located. There are two dwellings per floor (symmetrical) in this block.

Each dwelling consists of three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom, except for the ground floor, where one of the bedrooms in one of the dwellings has been converted into a shop.

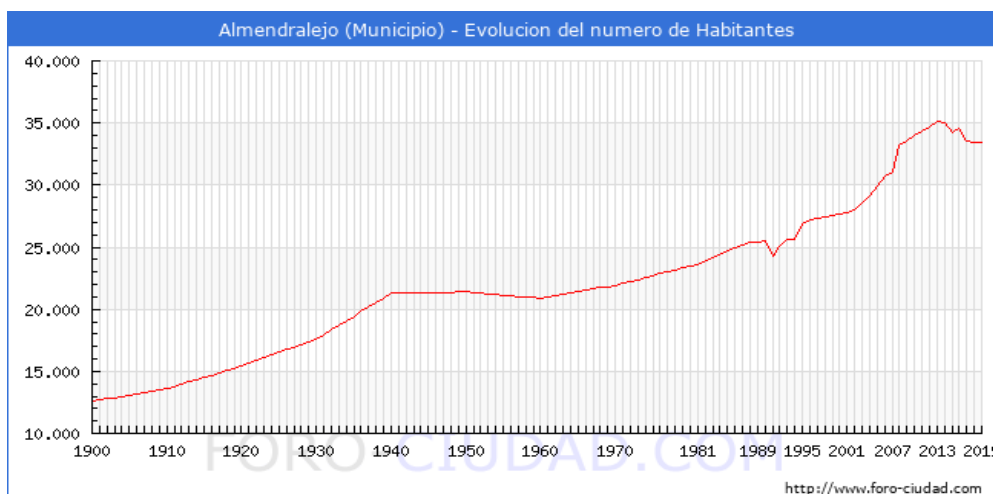


**GROUND FLOOR**

[Image 34.](#) Standard floor plan for Block 3.3.

## 4. SOCIO-CULTURAL CONTEXT

The social and cultural development of Almendralejo is closely linked to the work done in the countryside. This is one of the most populated towns in the province outside the capital, Badajoz, 64.5 km away.



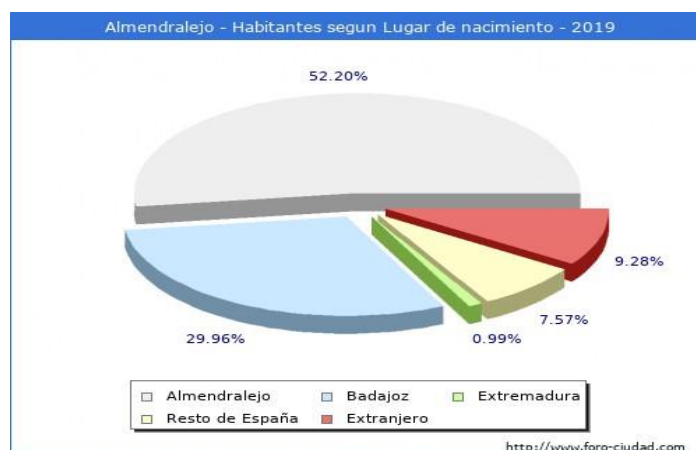
According to INE demographic statistics for 2019, Almendralejo has a population of 33,474 inhabitants.

Image 35. Almendralejo population trend. INE.

The number of inhabitants has grown constantly since the start of the 20th century. 2007 marked the start of sharp population growth in a shorter time until 2013, when a significant decline began, although 2017 saw a recovery. There is no question that the town has undergone considerable growth since 1900, when the pop was just 13,000.

The recent growth trend, contrasting with many other parts of rural Spain, has been due to the fact that Almendralejo is no longer only inhabited by locally-born residents (only half of the population), but also by people born elsewhere, especially in Badajoz, followed by foreigners, arrivals from other parts of Spain, and finally a small proportion from other parts of Extremadura.

Image 36. Almendralejo population by place of birth. INE.





Almendralejo, Corte de Peleas and Codosera are the towns with the highest percentage of foreign-born residents in the province. In fact, the figures are much higher than those of the province as a whole due to the fact that these areas provide much seasonal farm work.

Structurally, there is a significant difference between the population of Almendralejo and Badajoz in the 50 to 84 age brackets. There is an increase in the province in both sexes, while Almendralejo has the largest number of foreigners in the 0 to 14 age group.

There is also an increase in the population between the ages of 30 and 44, due to the fact that there are many people working in the fields. But it is remarkable that the number of women and men is almost half, the difference being only 8% more women in Almendralejo, and 10% in Badajoz.

(Almendralejo: Men 49.6% and Women 50.4%, Badajoz: Men 49,5% and Women 50,5%)

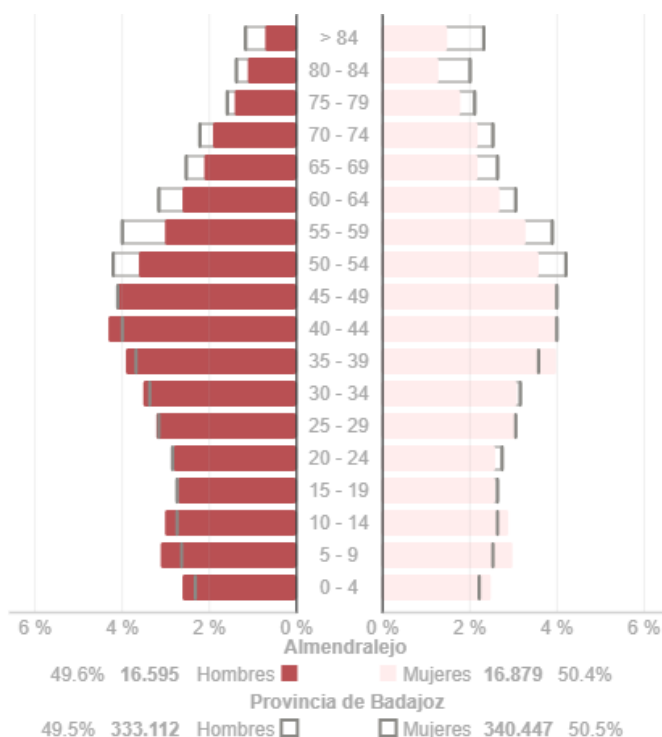


Image 37. Almendralejo population pyramid. INE.

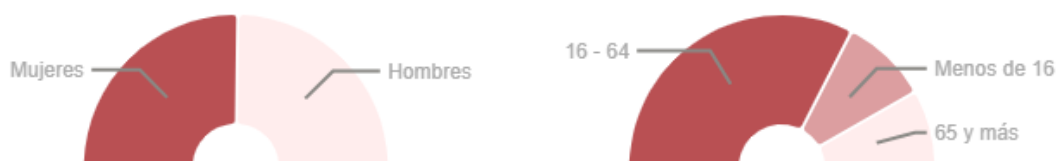
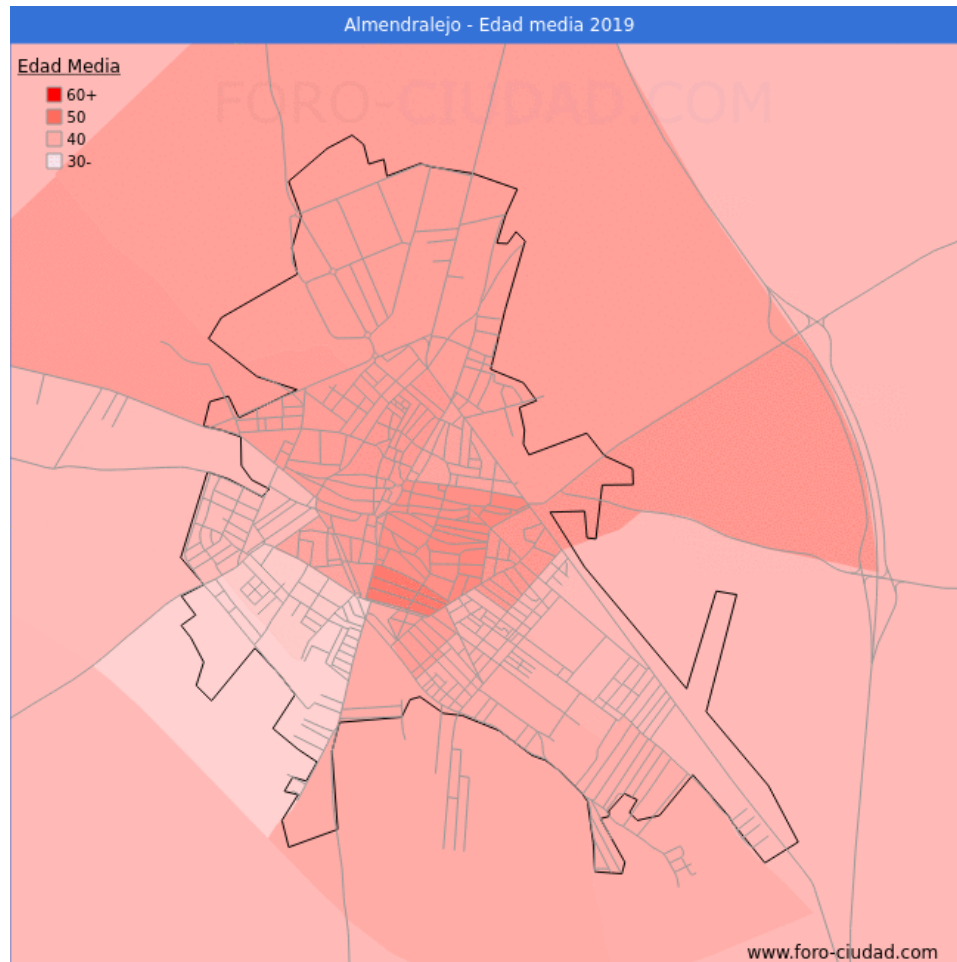


Image 38. Population by sex and age in Almendralejo. INE.

The average age of the Almendralejo population is 40 years, with inter-annual growth at 1%. The over-65 population is 16.2% of the total, with an inter-annual growth of 2.1%.

The statistics also show the Almendralejo population pyramid in different districts. This would also be an interesting aspect for analysis in the project area. The following map illustrates the



average ages in different districts.

Image 39. Average age of the Almendralejo population in each district. INE.

The natural population growth in the Almendralejo municipality has been positive according to the latest data published by the INE (2019), with 64 more births than deaths.

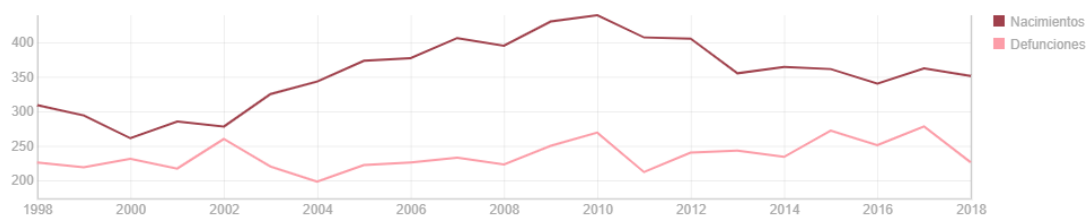


Image 40. Birth-death trends in Almendralejo. INE.

## 5. ECONOMIC CONTEXT

According to data from the National Public Employment Service (SEPE), 1,777 work contracts were registered in November 2020, while annual growth was negative (-44.3%). April 2020 was the month with the lowest number of contracts in several years, while October 2019 was one of the highest figures, although this statistic varies greatly from one month to another.

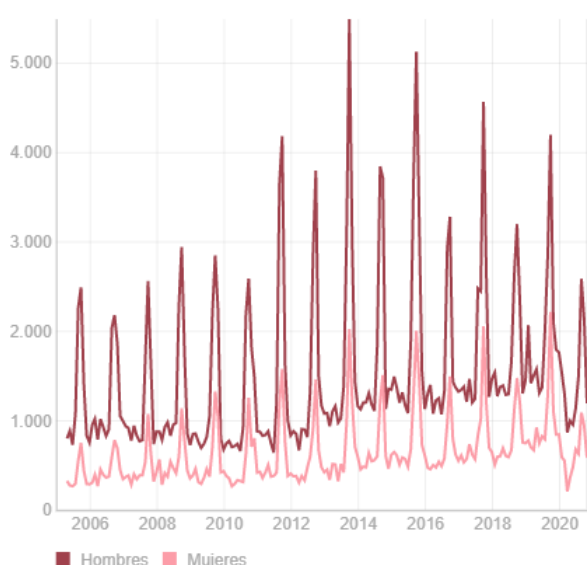


Image 41. Contracts registered in November 2020. SEPE.

The number of contracts in Almendralejo for men is much higher than for women.

Agriculture, the main economic sector in Almendralejo, is logically the sector with the largest number of contracts. The trend has been remarkable over the years, peaking at over 6,000 contracts in 2014, while other sectors totalled less than 1,000 contracts.

In the last year, the number of contracts in the Agriculture sector has dropped to around 2,000, with Services (approx. 1,000) recorded as the next sector with the most contracts,



followed by Industry and Construction.

Image 42. Contracts by gender. SEPE.

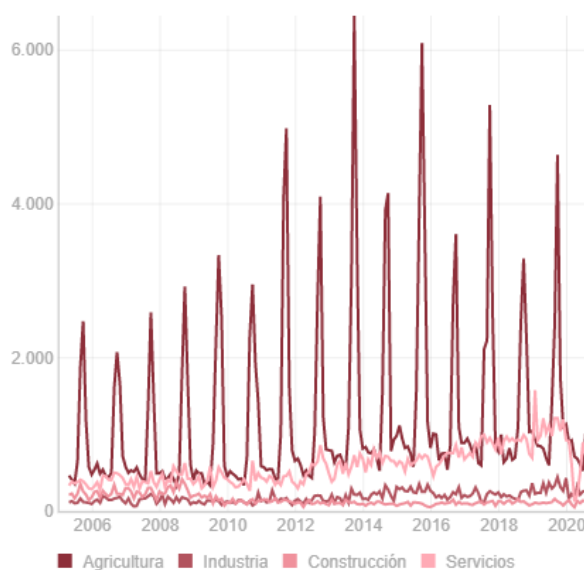


Image 43. Contracts by economic sector. SEPE.



In conclusion, Almendralejo thrives from its land thanks to the large amount of labour required for farm work and derivative products. According to INE statistics from the Central Business Directory, in 2019 there were 2,590 companies, with an inter-annual growth of 3.7%, in the trade, transport and hospitality sector.

There were 1,136 companies in this sector, accounting for 43.9%, i.e., almost half of the total. This is a very broad and varied sector, in which the volume of business activity along with health and social services activities are particularly noteworthy. It is important to note that since 2017, there has been an exponential growth in the total number of companies, a figure which grown and evolved constantly from year to year.

Image 44. Number of companies. INE.

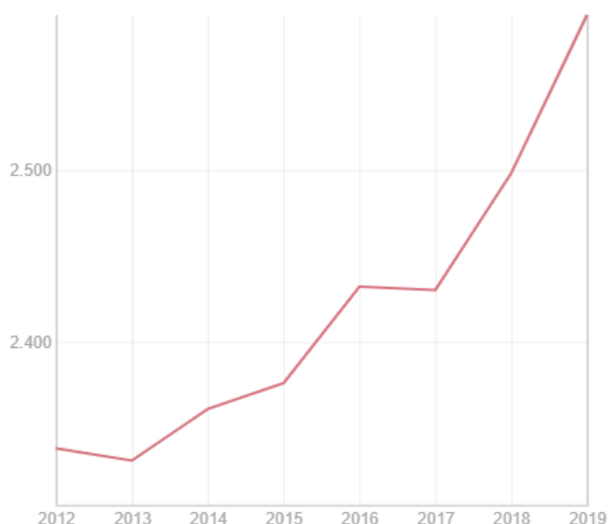
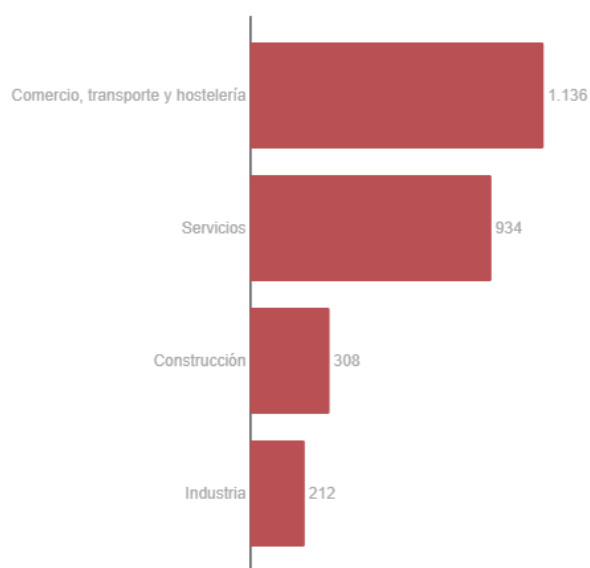


Image 45. Companies by economic sector. INE.



The number of unemployed persons registered with the State Public Employment Service (SEPE) in November 2020 was 3,901, with an annual increase of 8.8%. There was a significant drop in April 2020 due to the extraordinary global situation, coinciding with the State of Alarm due to COVID-19.



Image 46. Number of registered unemployed persons per year in Almendralejo. SEPE.