



CITIZEN SURVEY

Concern for housing rises 15 points and reaches 64%

The average price exceeds 800 euros, with an increase of more than 90 euros in one year

SOURCE ARI GRAPHIC PAKO TEMPRADO

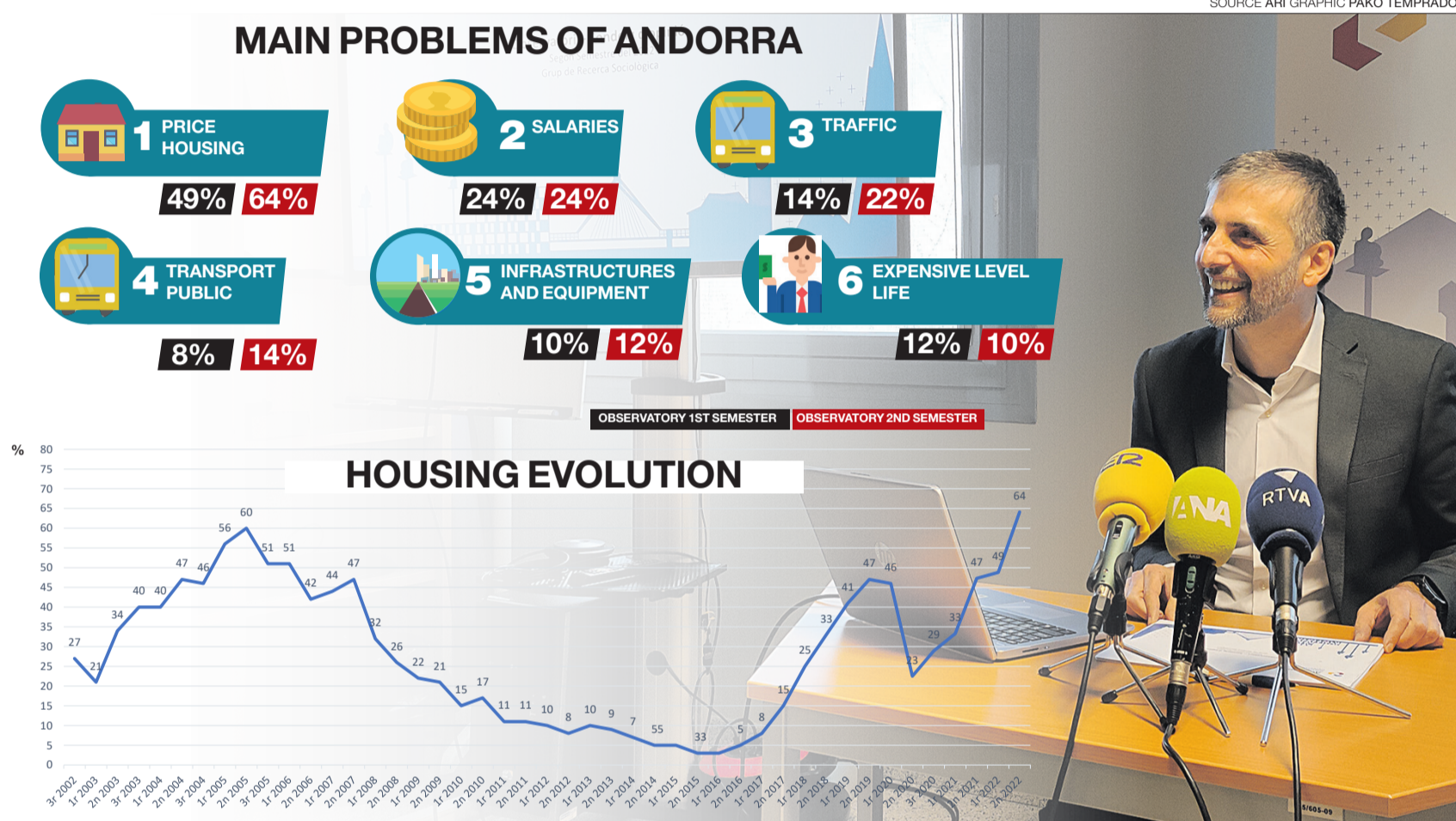
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Citizen concern about the price of housing has shot up 15 points in the last six months, as it has gone from 48.8% in June to 64.1% today, as Andorra's main problem, as reflected by the Observatory of the second semester of this year's Sociological Research Group of Andorra Research + Innovation (ARI) which was presented yesterday in Sant Julià de Lòria. The survey, which was conducted between November 8th and 22nd among 745 people, shows that this 64% is the highest percentage in the last 20 years, only almost equaled by the 60% that was detected in 2005. In 2015 and in 2016 housing concern plummeted to 3%.

«More and more layers of the population perceive the price of flats as a difficulty. In fact, it is expanding even to managers, it has become generalized and is structural. Only the elderly are the group that say they are least affected. So, it would be possible to reach 100% of citizens, since with traffic we reached 80%», said the coordinator of the sociology area of the ARI, Joan Micó, during the presentation press conference.

After the price of housing, the main problems in the country according to the citizens are wages (23.6%), traffic (21.9%), public transport (14.3%), infrastructure and equipment (12.4%) and the expensive standard of living (9.9%). If these aspects to be improved are grouped by thematic areas, the price of housing, wages and expensive living standards top the ranking with 68.7%, 12.7 points more than six months ago. Traffic (21.9%) and public transport (14.3%) remain in the top positions.

If we look at the public's perception of the main problems, but in this case from the point of view of personal impact, the price of housing remains prominent in the first position of the ARI survey, with a 31.7%, 6 points of increase compared to the



JOAN MICÓ
ARI SOCIOLOGY AREA COORDINATOR

«More and more social layers are affected, it could be that it reaches 100%; in traffic, we reached 80%»

first half of the year. Young people, women, administrators, hospitality and construction staff and 21% of managers are the most affected.

Continuing with housing, the population that is in a rental regime remains stable (60.8%), followed by those who own a property already paid for (23.1%) and those who have an apartment they own, but they are still paying the mortgage (13.4%). If the supplies (water, electricity and

heating) are discounted, the average price of rents and mortgages reaches 813 euros in 2022, 93 euros more than a year ago, but this average rises to 970 euros if only the more recent contracts (1 year or less). As the length of the contract increases, the price decreases, from 791 to 780 euros (more than 10 years).

Another relevant indicator regarding housing is the percentage of the income of each person or family dedi-

cated to paying the rent or the mortgage. Among those who rent, 38% spend between 30 and 49% of their income, while those who pay a mortgage, 30%. If we look further, those who spend more than 50% of their income exceed 20% (21.8% mortgage and 23.9% rent). Regarding the extensions of rental contracts that the Government has applied since 2018, 19.1% of respondents have benefited from them, while 23.1% (+13.8 points) of tenants have received a notification of the lessor to update the amount of the rent.

REACH THE END OF THE MONTH AT HOME // Regarding the current economic situation, the majority of the population (46.4%) considers it to be normal and only 20% thinks it is bad. If asked in the personal sphere, the

figures are better, as 48.6% consider it to be good or very good. All in all, 46.4% believe it is the same compared to a year ago and 33.6% worse. As for whether they get home at the end of the month, 61% of respondents say that it is easy and only 38.5% with difficulty.

In addition, 88% of the population is of the opinion that they have noticed the rise in prices a lot or quite a bit in their purchasing power. In fact, 55% of people have had to reduce spending on basic products, 48% on leisure (going out less, culture, sport and restaurants), 52% on holidays, 38% on travel (reduction in private vehicle due to the increase in the price of fuel), 15% in medical tests and 12% in expenses with the children (clothing, extracurricular activities and leisure). ≡

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Interview ► Montserrat Ronchera is the general secretary of the Andorra Women's Institute, t

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Montse Ronchera

Secretary of the Women's Institute

«There is a part of society that doesn't know feminism at all and another that is very aware of it»

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A lawyer by profession, Montserrat Ronchera takes over from the Head of Government and becomes the general secretary of the Andorra Women's Institute, which will be launched in the coming days with the aim of ensuring equality, but also for the promotion and empowerment of the female population.

–What is the Andorran Women's Institute?

–It is the place where all promotion policies must be carried out so that women participate with equal opportunities in all areas of life, from the cultural to the economic.

–Does that mean you don't do it now?

–In some areas, unfortunately, no. There are many examples, but perhaps the most obvious is seen in the world of sport: men are much better paid than women or win many more prizes and recognitions. We can also talk about women in art or writing, which although there has been progress recently, they still do not have the same opportunities as men. Or in professions that are very masculini-

zed, such as the Police or Firefighters, and in which little by little we have to equalize the functions.

–When will it come into operation?

–It should be up and running at the beginning of January. At the moment [as of December 27th] we are waiting to sign an agreement with the Municipality of Andorra la Vella, which will give us a place in the Columnes building and once the works are completed we will be able to move there. However, we have already started working for days.

–What is the difference between the Women's Institute and the Equality Observatory?

–The Equality Observatory is located within the Department of Equality of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality and its work goes beyond women: it looks after everyone's equality in all aspects. We focus exclusively on women. In addition, the observatory must collect all the necessary information to then process it and produce statistics that we can use to promote actions, such as equal pay.

–Are the Statistics data that we currently have reliable?

–There are aspects that are not well done and we often take the data of neighboring countries as a reference because they are more reliable than ours. The observatory must obtain reliable information and between the two we will do an analysis to extract policy recommendations for the states and companies involved.

–What will be your tasks as general secretary?

–As the law says, I will carry out a management task with an executive committee that is still waiting to be appointed. I think that the operation will be very similar to that of a board of directors and a general management.

–And what other positions will there be?

–The executive committee will be made up of a team of four people appointed by the head of government, the General Council, the seven municipalities and women's associations in the country, plus the general secretary, who is me. Now we are just starting with a budget that has to be processed by the General Council, but we hope to expand the staff over time.

–What is the main goal that is set?

–It is very difficult to define, but I think we have a great pedagogic task ahead of us in which we have to explain the discriminations that can occur. There are those who ask me why the creation of this institute is important and I always say that if we were in a situation of equality between men and women it would not be necessary. And I wish it were so! But as a result of people's comments and everything I see on social networks and the media, I realize that there is a lot of knowledge missing. Some believe that feminism is the opposite of masculinism, which has nothing to do with one another. I remember recently a politician said that feminism is something of the 20th century... Everyone thinks they know a lot about everything, but deep down few really know what they are talking about.

–In this sense, do you think that society is polarizing?

–What is true is that there is a part of society that does not know the subject at all and another that is very aware of it. For example, both men and women in their 30s are very convinced of it and I, since my appointment was announced, have met young men who

have shown me their support and have recognized me the need to create the institute. And it is obvious; we will only achieve equality when men are also aware that this task must be done and until that moment arrives there will be so much to say and so many issues to discuss...

–What role do women play in Andorran society and politics?

–Here I think the change has been noticed. We have gone from a time when the presence of women in politics was anecdotal to something completely normal and commonplace. This was thanks to a kind of lobby that was created 15 years ago and was called the Women's Group for Reflection and Action, and of which I was a part. At that time it was a group only for women in which we discussed legal, social and a little bit of everything, through which we sought to improve the presence of women everywhere. In fact, from there arose the debate about whether it was necessary to create a women's institute, although the Women's Association (ADA) already existed and had spoken about it before. Our function was to empower, and I don't want to name names, but this is where women came from who

The body that looks after equality and the promotion of women in all areas

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later went through Andorran politics, as ministers, secretaries of state, councilors general or as consuls. In other words, we were a lobby - and we were often accused of being one - but we fulfilled our function and in Andorran politics there was a before and an after, an awakening, and the awareness that a woman she could hold, like men, any political office.

-However, now that the general elections are approaching, at the moment there are many parties, but only two women candidates for head of government.

-It may still take a few years for us to see a woman head of government, but I don't think it's something impossible. Only 12 years ago, no one knew what it meant to make zip-tie lists and now, poor the party that presents itself without one. Before, everyone respected the ideological and parochial quota very much and we forgot about the equality between men and women. Things change, and so does thinking.

-Is the creation of the institute late?

-Everything comes when it has to, but it's been years since the ADA, and like me and so many other women, we claim it. We must thank the politicians who made and approved the Law of Equality of Treatment and Opportunities and of non-discrimination between men and women, because it is the one that really includes all the rights and the creation of the institute.

-And, until now, has enough been done to achieve equality?

-As I said, I think awareness and pedagogy are lacking, and have been lacking, in the sense that people who don't see the need don't understand it either and they have to put their finger on the sore so that they are aware

of it. It may not have been done precisely because of a lack of awareness, but there are more and more of them.

-What references can you take from women's institutes in Spain and France?

-The truth is that we tend to look south, but in France there is the Fondation des Femmes with very wide powers and it is a kind of political pressure in which we could mirror ourselves. I also think a lot about the Scandinavian countries that are much more advanced in the matter or Quebec, which is a small place and similar to Andorra, with an organization that could serve as an example for us.

-One of the main problems in society - and which affects women the most - is work and family reconciliation. How can it be improved in a country of services like Andorra?

-It is a very complex issue, and more so in a country like ours where the activity rate of women is very high, which results in a very low birth rate. In other words, women work a lot and, therefore, it is necessary to raise awareness regarding the co-responsibility between women and men. It seems like a very basic issue, but it is not obvious, because there are still many women who take on not only housework, but also family care. In addition, the involvement of companies is necessary, and this is already much more complicated, but it will be one of the institute's main struggles in the long run. I must also say, however, that in recent years both large companies and micro-companies have improved a lot in matters of reconciliation by accepting and promoting aspects as simple as teleworking or offering permission to combine personal life with professional life. In medium-sized companies, on



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the other hand, it has not taken off in the same way and there is still a lot of work to be done.

-But all this goes far beyond feminism and gender equality.

-Yes. In Andorra we always want to show that we are leaders and that we want to open up to the world by selling ourselves as a country with a high quality of life. But this doesn't have to be just for foreign investors; those of us who live and work here need it too and equality, along with many other factors, boils down to that.

-Are you educated in values of equality?

-I lack concrete data, but it is urgent that affective and sexual education be put in place and not only from home, but also from schools. The Ministry of Equality has long asked to include equality officers in the classroom, but this is not enough. Society must also be taken into account and the use and abuse of certain products, such as pornography, at younger ages. As you can see, we have many more open fronts than it might seem at first and we will need everyone's help and support.

-However, until abortion is free, women's rights will not be fully guaranteed.

-I agree.

-And what will you do from the institute?

-I can answer you in two ways: I agree, but there will be an executive committee with which we will make the decisions. I think that in recent times steps forward have been made and the issue of abortion has gone from being intractable to being talked about a bit and I trust that sooner rather than later decriminaliza-

tion, at least, will come, because it is the normal. If it will be free, ways will have to be found, but this is a personal conviction, I am not saying this as the general secretary of the Andorra Women's Institute.

-And gender stereotypes, will they ever end?

-This already exceeds the country. We live in a patriarchal society and we are its consequence. From the age and experience I have, I have been able to see that progress has been made in many ways and, although the stereotypes continue, they do not do so in the same way as 30 years ago. From this point of view we are making progress, but very little by little and we cannot forget that Andorra is part of Europe, of the world, and that it is a global issue. That doesn't mean we can't do our bit, with small gestures like in private schools girls don't have to wear skirts if they don't want to. It is so simple, so simple, that it seems unbelievable that it happens.

-What opinion do you have about the feminist revolutions taking place in places like Iran or Afghanistan?

-Fortunately, there are more and more young men who are aware and who are not ashamed to support their female colleagues and participate in demonstrations not only for women's rights, but for human rights. These women are being raped, persecuted and killed in dictatorial and femicide countries, and the revolution from within is very important, but the international role is not taking place. How is it possible? Not letting girls go to university simply because they are girls, as is happening in Afghanistan, is a crime against humanity, but still, neither the United Nations nor any country in the world is doing anything about it. ≡



Football ► Interview with Adrià Altimira

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«The club has given me the opportunity and I am giving them security and desire»

ADRIÀ ALTIMIRA FC Andorra player

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Adrià Altimira Reynaldos (Cardedeu, 2001) is a professional footballer. Trained in the lower categories of EC Granollers and FC Barcelona, once he finished training he moved to NK Lokomotiva Zagreb, shortly after returning to Spain and playing for a season with UD Melilla. Now, he is in his second season with FC Andorra, a club he joined in 2021.

–The first part of the season is already over. What balance do you have in the dressing room during these first months in the Second Division?

–Before the start of the season we knew that it would be a complicated start. Second is a very complicated category and in the end we were new to the league. But if we take stock of how we started and where we ended up, any team that moves up from another category to second A would end up where we did. We leave with good feelings, eager to start the second round at home against Oviedo and to continue with the same dynamic.

–And the assessment for December? FC Andorra has been the second worst team in the category in terms of results.

–We have to know what moments we are in. It's true that December wasn't one of the best we've had, but we have to learn from every moment because we've been spectacular in games and months ago. May December serve us to improve the details that have caused us not to get so many points.

–Although this month to forget, the team is in tenth position in the classification. What is the goal they propose now?

–We are a team that obviously does not set any goals. We trust ourselves and go match by match as the master says, above all to enjoy the process. In the end, if you play your game, enjoy the procedure and do it well, you get closer to victories and that makes you better positioned in the league.

–They have collected very positive results against teams with first-team experience such as Granada. What is the secret to adapting to the category?

–Our essence is the style of play we have, which Eder has been carrying since he came. This style of play makes opponents suffer because we almost always have the ball. In addition, we

are a team that on and off the field we are together and that's why the opponents feel afraid.

–FC Andorra has grown so fast, moving up one category per year in the last three seasons. Now that you live it from the inside, do you feel that Segona is the roof? Or can you go further?

–It is very strong to say that we are moving up to the first division, but when we were in the first RFEF or Second B you could not imagine ending up where we are now. Who knows if this year, or in a year or two, the team can assume to be in the top category.

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«It's true that sometimes we can't be around for a lot of things, but we're very happy and grateful in the stands»

–Has the elimination of the King's Cup been a small blow to the group's morale?

–It's a competition where we wanted to do something beautiful. We played a good opponent and, on top of that, in their own field. Despite being a one-on-one game, it was difficult for us to start it. In the end we played our game and we were about to come back, but we have to keep moving forward with other things and now the most important thing is the second round of the league.

–Do you think it could have gone further?

–Regard-

less of who touches you, it's a drink where you can go quite far and surprise. Obviously it could have been done.

–The game model you propose is closely related to the coach's philosophy. How does Sarabia transfer the way you see football?

–Especially with the issue of not obsessing over just thinking about the result, as happens to many teams. We have placed importance on how we play and on our essence, and I think

this has been shown with the results.

–You who come from the Barça school, you must be very familiar with this style.

–Of course. It is true that they have some different details, but you adapt very quickly and it makes a lot of things easier for you.

–Speaking of the coach, he was the one who bet on his fixation in 2021. He must be an important personality for his career.

grateful for that.

–Therefore, the relationship with the fans is good.

–Of course! They love us a lot and we love them. We thank them for coming every game to cheer us on and we try to give them, game by game, the joy of victory.

–Do you have the same feeling about the cheering stand?

–Every person who comes to the stadium and contributes their bit is

very important. We try to make everyone happy and eager to see us. Yes, it is true that sometimes we cannot be there for many things, but we are very happy and grateful for the entertainment.

–Yes.

And with him we experienced a promotion, a very important milestone in which I was able to participate. In second A I am also having a lot of importance. The club has given me the opportunity and I am giving them the security, the desire and to give everything playing.

–In this first part of the season, the fans have played a fundamental role in winning points at home. How do you feel about this support?

–Each time we go to the National Stadium there are more people no matter how much it gets colder every day (laughs). This year we feel more support from the fans and we are very

ment stand. They always support us and we need them to keep coming. They are very valuable to us.

–Do you understand that they can have the thought that they are not valued?

–Obviously. You put yourself in their shoes, especially when they travel to another place, but we always have them in mind. Football is so intense that sometimes we haven't been as close as we could have been. Partly because of the result, leaving angry, thinking about where I could improve and all that stuff. In the end, you kind of forget about those people, even so we always try to thank them. I personally invite them to continue the same, even more, because they are an important group and we need a lot.

–It is also his first experience in the Second Division. How are you living it?

–Already very happy since the preseason. The truth is that I did not expect this start and I feel quite confident. Obviously I'm very grateful for the opportunity and I'm taking advantage of it and giving it my all.

–You are a versatile player, who can occupy a more defensive role on the wing, but also be incisive when playing forward. What is your real position?

–The whole right wing, we could say I'm a fullback. I like to play on the wing, although I feel more comfortable playing offensively, as that is where I have always been.

–How do you rate your time at the club since you arrived until today?

–Honestly and on a personal level, with an improvement. I am a different player and I have noticed this positively with everything, on and off the field. And I think it will still be a mountain to climb.

–A dream to fulfill with FC Andorra?

–Go up to the first division. In fact, it is a realistic goal for the coming seasons.

–And as a professional footballer?

–Debut in the top category. And beyond that, participate in the Champions League. ≡

