



SOCIETY

Introduction of immersive virtual reality as therapy

It is designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

There is software with a wide catalog of interactive content

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Nostra Senyora de Meritxell Foundation (FPNSM) yesterday exhibited a new tool based on the reproduction of environments through immersive virtual reality, which aims to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities and development, carrying out interventions to improve cognitive skills and regulate sensory and behavioral alterations.

The virtual reality environment is a room with a projector, which has software with a wide catalog of interactive contents that represent real or non-real environments without the need to use headsets or virtual reality glasses. This material - which is generated by a computer - allows people to move around the room. It should be noted that the tool is designed to be different for each case, and has several benefits at a therapeutic level.

It is the first institution in the country to have the Immersive Virtual Reality tool, and it costs 32,500 euros

The general director of the foundation, Celine Mandicó, explained that «implementing ER-VI technology in Andorra is another step in the desire to continue at the forefront of comprehensive care for people with disabilities with a therapeutic methodology with scientific evidence that is pioneering, attractive and motivating for the people we serve, since we adapt the therapeutic content to each person». In addition, he emphasized that «studies are being carried out with this treatment, specifically with therapies aimed at treating social phobia with people on the autism spectrum (ASD), and we will be one more entity that will work with this research».

On the other hand, the psychologist of the foundation, Manel



► Celine Mandicó and Manuel Borrallo at event.



CELINE MANDICÓ
GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FPNSM

«The tool is pioneering, attractive and motivating, since we adapt the therapeutic content to each person»

MANEL BORRALLO
FPNSM PSYCHOLOGIST

«We ask patients if they liked the session and if they would repeat it, and the answer is always positive»

Borrallo emphasized that «it is being seen that immersive virtual reality is a therapeutic tool that makes the person more motivated to work in the therapeutic field, and the results they are faster.» He also added that «the reception has been very good. We ask patients if they liked the session and if they would repeat it, and the answer is always positive,» he emphasizes.

Finally, it should be noted that the Nostra Senyora de Meritxell Private Foundation is the first institution in the country to have this technology after having analyzed its positive impact in other socio-health centers, mainly in Catalonia. This tool costs 32,500 euros, taking into account both the projector and the room. ≡

Teràpies

Cognitive

therapies facilitate learning and attention.

welfare

emotional well-being to reduce anxiety.

stimulation

sensory through the senses.

treatments

rehabilitation such as simulations.

To train

train social skills.

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The special summer quota will have around 600 new authorizations

This decision came about because it is important for the hotel and restaurant sector to have sufficient workers

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The Government gave the green light to the Special Quota Regulations for summer workers, in the hotel and restaurant sector. This is how the Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, explained it, pointing out that this is a measure that was already adopted last year and worked very well and for this reason it has been decided to implement it again. Molné explained that the decision comes because «it is important for the Government that companies have sufficient labor so that companies can work under optimal conditions». The quota will consist of 600 authorizations that can be extended to 30%, and that will come into force when it is published in the BOPA (next Wednesday) and will be valid until October 31st. The minister also recalled that last summer 1700 temporary authorizations were approved and that if they are broken down you can see that 1200 came from the winter one and 575 were new arrivals.

Considering that seasonal workers have had the option of regularizing their situation by accessing an ordinary residence and work permit, forming part of the general quo-



► The Minister of Justice and Interior, Ester Molné, during the press conference after the Council of Ministers.

ta, now workers in this case will not be eligible for the summer quota. «We have looked at the regulations that have been made through the flexibility of these requirements, and around 1,300 people have been regularized in this way, which we think will also help alleviate the need for labor of the hotel sector. Of the 1,300, the figure needed to be completed to reach 1,700 and that is what has been done with these 600 quota authorizations», explained Molné.

Another measure that was ap-

proved by the Council of Ministers is the modification of the Immigration regulations, in order to modify upwards the economic requirements to be able to apply for family reunification. Currently, the current regime is that if a person wants to regroup, the applicant must earn 100% of the minimum wage plus 70% of the minimum wage for each adult who wants to regroup and 40% of the minimum wage for each minor that wants to regroup.

With this modification, the ap-

plicant must earn 100% of the minimum wage, for each adult it becomes 100% and for each minor 70% of the minimum wage. The purpose of this measure is to avoid making families fall into precariousness, taking into account the significant increase in the body of life that has occurred in recent months. What the Government wants to achieve is that when a person regroups with his family he has sufficient means to be able to live in the Principality. ≡

New mediation process for the health transport problem

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The Government's Ministry of Health has opened an external and neutral mediation process between the Andorran Health Transport company and its employees to find a solution to the problem in the health transport service. The Minister's Spokesperson, Guillem Casal, explained that this issue has become one of the ministry's priorities, since even though he stressed that it is a private relationship between employees and a company, the importance that the health transport service does, the Government had to participate. Casal also explained that the relevant ministry has already met a total of 14 times in recent months with the concessionaire company to try to find a solution. ≡

Cervós and Saura will have secretaries of state

The Government appointed Ester Cervós Secretary of State for Social Affairs and Marc Saura Secretary of State for Enterprise, Economic Diversification and Innovation. Both will hold the position after the Official Gazette of the Principality of Andorra (BOPA) publishes the official Decree. In parallel, several decrees were approved on the internal structuring of a total of nine ministries. The position of some secretaries and also some appointments were ratified. The new members representing the Administration in the University Council were also appointed.

Sales from June 23rd to September 3rd

Council of Ministers approved the Decree establishing the calendar for the sale period for the summer season 2023. Therefore, it is established that the sale period for the season begins on June 23rd and will end on September 3rd. On the other hand, the sale period in private sales will start on June 16th and end on June 22nd. They also explained that after prior consultation with the sector, it was decided to establish the specific start and end dates of the discount periods for the 2023 summer season.

Open the call for study grants

The Government opened the call for study grants for the 2023-2024 school year, in order to guarantee the right to education for all students and compensate for economic and social inequalities. The call is aimed at students attending the educational levels of nursery school, primary and secondary education, high school and personal training. As a novelty, the Government decided to increase the maximum amount of the enrollment grant to 750 euros. In order to qualify for a grant to study in Andorra, the income per equivalent member must be less than 18,720 euros.

Aid for the promotion of animal welfare

A total of 42 cattle farms in the country have obtained a subsidy from the Government for the bonus of animal welfare in their farms. The executive will invest 133,875 euros with the aim of guaranteeing animal welfare from birth to slaughter, in order to obtain a higher quality, more efficient and sustainable final product. Casal recalled that the subsidy granted to each farm depends on the degree of compliance with the criteria that determine the level of animal welfare achieved and that it is carried out through an expert evaluation process.

Renovation of the design of the BOPA website

The Official Gazette of the Principality of Andorra (BOPA) is launching today a new, updated website model, due to the migration work of the virtual platform on which it is hosted. Citizens will be able to enjoy a new, more intuitive and simplified design, which will also have a new content search system to make it more agile, giving, for example, the possibility to search for documents for the category of organizations and for topics at a time, unlike the current version that only allows you to search for one or the other. It will soon be available for the mobile application.

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad