



SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

The pandemic is widening the social gap and job insecurity

Pathologies related to the field of mental health have increased by 14%

Gender inequalities reinforce gender inequality

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The report that was presented yesterday at the presentation of the study *The covid in Andorra*. Its impact on the economy of the working class determines that the social gap and job insecurity has increased since the beginning of the pandemic in the Principality between 0.72% and 3%. According to data released by the company specializing in social impact projects, Andropia, and the Center for Sociological Research (CRES), the population has experienced a decline in quality of life and a considerable decrease in income compared to prepandemic figures. According to Andropia President Marta Alberch, «Today, the richest 20% of the population represents 43% of the country's total wealth.» Similarly, one of the most relevant data is the psychological impact of the pandemic and confinement, as according to the report, mental health care has increased by 14%.

The study, which is divided into six different areas, was presented by the president of the Reig Foundation, Déborah Ribas, who explained that «this is a work that must contribute to global reflection in order to develop a photograph of reality and to act accordingly in every way».

DEMOGRAPHY AND MENTAL HEALTH // The high point of the first wave of the pandemic in Andorra was an increase in deaths, in which 80% of the victims were men and 20% were women. This fact confirms the global trend that, according to experts, states that males are more affected by the virus than females. According to the report, the total number of deaths increased by 39% and 118 deaths were recorded due to covid. Regarding mental health, Alberch pointed out that «14% of the population say they are having a bad time» and in relation to health personnel, «a study carried out in Spain shows that suicidal tendencies are increasing among staff sani-



FUNDACIÓ REIG

►► Joan Micó, Marta Alberch and Déborah Ribas at the presentation of the report.



MARTA ALBERCH
PRESIDENT OF ANDTROPÍA

«A Spanish study shows that suicidal tendencies are increasing among healthcare professionals»

JOAN MICÓ
PRESIDENT OF THE CRES

«It is highly likely that we are facing new situations of dissatisfaction and social tension»

tary ware».

GENDER INEQUALITY // Covid has made it clearer that gender inequality between men and women, especially in the workplace. In this way, «the wage gap has increased from 23% to 27% in Andorra among the income received by men compared to the income of women working in the same sector,» according to Alberch.

On the other hand, the director of the CRES, Joan Micó, focused on the data referring to the group that had to take advantage of the temporary suspensions of employment contracts (STCT) or unemployment, with a sample of 138 respondents. Only a third of people in this group said their financial situation was good,

the figures

+39% of deaths registered due to the contagion of covid in 2020.

3% the precariousness of the working class has increased by 3% since 2019.

14% of the population say they are having a bad time.

27% is the percentage of the gender pay gap.

while 80% said their income had declined since they started receiving STCT or the subsidy. The latter is a relevant figure when comparing the figures expressed by the CRES Observatory in which only 29% of the general population that had not received subsidies experienced a decrease in income. In fact, the decrease in income resulted in the elimination of extracurricular activities (63%), the purchase of clothes (46%), leisure (17%), university studies (50%) and the reduction of medical tests by 23%.

Finally, the report mentions future prospects. According to Alberch, «uncertainty is one of the events that will affect 2022 in all areas of life; however, I think we have hit rock bottom and it is time for recovery. « Similarly, he stressed that «the rise in prices and the supply crisis we are experiencing locally and globally will affect us in macroeconomic terms,» but also indicated that «it is time to reinvent ourselves; I don't think all jobs will be 100% face-to-face again. « Micó, for his part, admitted that «it is highly probable that we will find ourselves with social tension and high levels of non-conformity in the face of the evolution of the measures derived from the virus.»

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GENERAL ADVICE

Jover justifies Hinojosa not appearing to receive threats

López insists that responsibilities for the mismanagement of the Covid Office and the chaotic label be cleared

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The Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, justified that until recently the President of the State Agency for the Resolution of Banking Institutions (AREB), Albert Hinojosa, did not appear before the General Council since the end of 2018 due to the "serious threats" which he and his family received. He stated this during the session of control questions to the Government held yesterday in the General Council, detailing that these threats caused them to receive official protection. «It was my personal decision,» Jover said, adding that he decided to limit Hinojosa's public exposure. In this way, Jover stated that Hinojosa has continued in office during this time in search of a replacement, and that his resignation was for personal reasons.

In this sense, the head of Finance did not want to advance when or who will be the new president of the body, but he did say that he will appear before the General Council. With these explanations, the Minister answered the questions of the Social Democrat General Councilor Joaquim Miró, who was critical of the management that has been at the head of the AREB over the years, and insisted on asking for the BPA accounts. In this regard, Jover stated that the legal interpretation given by the Executive of the law does not allow them to provide this information, as they are private accounts of a company.

Another issue raised by the Social Democratic parliamentary group was the management of the Covid Office. In this sense, its president, Pere López, once again demanded that responsibilities be cleared for the mismanagement that has taken place in this device, demanding from the Executive an explanation for the saving of resources that has taken place. «Under no circumstances has the government saved resources at the current time of the pandemic,» said Xavier Espot, the Prime Minister, in response to questions from the Social Democrat president re-



► A snapshot of General Council meeting.

Of the 855 workers in the Andorran education system, 83 are on sick leave, although not all are due to covid.

garding the office during the session.

In fact, López took advantage of his speech to criticize the mismanagement based on the high incidence of cases in the Principality, with the constant changes in protocols and noting that it took a long time to regulate automatic terminations. «There has been a Covid office that has not been organized or planned,» and «we have been in chaos since November,» Lopez said. He also explained that many citizens have explained to him the difficulties of being able to contact the office, assuring that it could take between two and four days to do so. Either way, Lopez acknowledged that times are tough.

In response, Espot accused the opposition president of wanting to make a destructive allegation and of not knowing the reality of the country, stating that although there have been mistakes, in no case has it been in chaos. «In the face of the unforeseen, I think that we have acted quickly enough to detect and redirect them,» said the Chief Executive, who added that «we can say that the Covid Office is working and facing its work with guarantees».

TEACHER RESIGNATION // Linked to the pandemic Higher Education, Ester Vilarrubla, last Monday at the closing of the Summer and Autumn University. In this regard, the Mi-

nister reported that of the 855 workers in the Andorran system, 83 are on sick leave. Vilarrubla commented that not all of these teachers are on sick leave for the covid-19, and pointed out that there are currently 70 covered and 13 non-covered absences, which is equivalent to 1.52%.

The head of Education also reiterated that, for now, there are no difficulties in covering casualties, as there are enough people in the job market, except in a few specific cases. However, the different casualties are spread across different schools and this «facilitates the management of each center,» he said.

Lastly, a question was asked about the candidacy for the organization of the 2030 Winter Olympics. López asked for the different contacts that exist for Andorra to be part of this candidacy of the Pyrenees and highlighted the relevance that they could have. «There may be a significant interest in improving road and rail access between the metropolitan area and the Pyrenees,» said the PS president.

For her part, the Minister of Culture and Sports, Sílvia Riva, expressed her active predisposition to be part of the candidacy with the potential that Andorra has. «There has been bilateral changes in which their show interest and predisposition to help and to improve the candidacy» and their know the information of the Catalan and the Spanish government, highlighted Riva. In addition, the Minister stressed that more and more applications are moving towards multilateralism and «Andorra has taken a step forward with the approval of runway facilities» and with a large hotel capacity that can accompany the infrastructure. In the questions, López regretted that there was not much information about it and commented that in recent weeks there have been several official meetings of a technical commission of the candidacy. In response, Riva reiterated that nothing is closed, that the dialogue is constant and that the offer by Andorra is still valid, according to the ANA. ≡

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