

el Periòdic News

CONFLICT OVER ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Association of Architects denounces irregularities in the municipal censuses

The organization defends participation in the revision of the POUP and criticizes the hiring of unauthorized architects



ANDORRA DIFUSIÓ

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EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Official College of Architects of Andorra (COAA) issued a statement last Monday to clarify the statements recently made by consul spokesmen in relation to article 16 of the Ethical Rules, after the confusion generated about its application. According to the COAA, these rules do not prevent registered architects from participating in the drafting or revision of Parish Ur-

ban Planning Plans (POUP), as it had been interpreted in some municipal administrations.

«Article 16 of the Ethical Rules establishes that registered architects who draft or revise a POUP may continue with their usual professional activity, but on the condition that the area covered is not irregularly increased in the three years following the approval of planning», stated the COAA, while indicating that «this article does not prohibit architects from carrying out

projects within the same parish where the review is carried out».

The COAA confirmed this last Thursday, in an Extraordinary Assembly, that this interpretation was incorrect and unanimously ratified that there is no obstacle for the participation of architects in the review of the POUPs. «Since the application of the established conditions, several architects have been involved in the revision of these plans, as was seen in the call this summer, in which at least

six professionals from the college participated,» added the entity.

On the other hand, the COAA showed its concern over the fact that some municipal administrations have reached erroneous conclusions about the application of article 16. «The real problem lies in the lack of public calls for the drafting and revision of the POUPs, a practice that violates the Public Procurement Law», declared the COAA.

Four municipalities would have hired non-resident architects without authorization to practice

This lack of transparency in the selection processes reflects, according to the entity, «the unwillingness of the municipalities to conform the current regulations.»

In addition, the statement denounces that four of the municipal corporations have directly hired non-resident architects without authorization to practice in the country, a practice that the COAA considers a serious violation of Law 40/2022 on Qualified Professions. «This action calls into question compliance with the legal and professional guarantees established by Andorran regulations,» the organization stressed. ●

EQUALITY

Towards a single advocate for victims of gender-based violence

The Court prepares a reception protocol for those affected to protect them in its wake to Justice

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Two weeks before the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Andorran Women's Institute (IAD), together with 10 other entities, presented the results of the various actions that have been carried out in the framework of the Worktable of professionals for Intervention in Gender Violence. The president of the IAD, Montserrat Ronchera, explained that «we have taken into account the evaluations of the victims to identify the shortcomings of the protocols».

In this context, the representatives of the different entities emphasized that one of the main complaints from the victims is the problem in the judicial aspects; specifically, the lack of coordination and cohesion between the different moments when the victims must be represented at the Seat of Justice. The treasurer of the Andorran Bar Association, Margarida



Different representatives of organizations that have participated in the Work Table of professionals for Intervention in Gender Violence.



MONTSERRAT RONCHERA

PRESIDENT OF THE IAD

«We took into account the evaluations of the victims to be able to identify the shortcomings of the protocols»

Marticella, emphasized that «so far, the system means that the victim has a lawyer for the cri-

minal case, another for the civil case and a third one who assists the victim at the Police department». As Marticella pointed out, and based on listening to those affected, the conclusion has been reached that «to keep the victim as protected as possible, she must have a single point of reference, a single lawyer who can accompany her in all the procedures». To make this project a reality, a grant has been requested from the Government to guarantee the presen-

ce of professional lawyers specialized in this matter, since there are currently none. «It is on record that 10 lawyers have already registered to access this subsidy», said the treasurer of the collegiate entity.

In the same vein, prosecutor Iván Alís, also a member of the working table, stressed that «the main objective is to protect the victim». In addition, he reported that the Court is developing a reception protocol for the victims that would be put in place the moment they arrive at the Seat of Justice, since «in some cases they can feel helpless».

On the other hand, among the measures analyzed as part of this process, the proposal to apply the 'pre-constituted test' stands out. This tool would help to avoid revictimization of the victim, since it would allow her to not have to constantly repeat the story of the events. Thus, it would be possible to better protect their emotional health, avoiding situations that could aggravate their psychological state. ●

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