



PILOT TEST

# FEDA inaugurates the country's first photovoltaic park in Grau Roig

The infrastructure can generate the electricity equivalent to 250 homes need

The panels use a bifacial technology, which allows to capture the rays reflected from the floor

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Forces Elèctriques d'Andorra (FEDA) solar park in the Grau Roig area is already a reality. Yesterday morning, under heavy rain, the director of FEDA, Albert Moles; the head of government, Xavier Espot; and the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability, Sílvia Calvó, inaugurated the facilities. As Espot explained, this new infrastructure, which is part of the plan designed by the Government, must manage to generate up to 1.3% of the energy currently consumed in the country. The head of government also emphasized that «the energy sector has shown us that it behaves much less predictably» and added that this park «serves a dual purpose, which is to reduce dependence and consume renewable energy».

For his part, Moles pointed out that the infrastructure serves «to

**The installation**  
cost 1.2 million euros and will be operational this fall



► An archive image of the Grau Roig photovoltaic park.

bring us closer to the goal set by the Energy Transition and Climate Change Act (Litecc) of reaching 33% of own production in 2030 and 50% in 2050». Currently, the Principality produces approximately between 15 and 20% of the energy it needs, a milestone that will rise to 30% when the Pic del Maià wind farm is put into operation. In this sense, the director of FEDA highlighted the fact that «there will be other photovoltaic parks in the future that add to the strategy of diversification of the origin that we have». For the time being, it should be noted that what was inaugurated yesterday can generate electricity equivalent to around 250 homes need.

The new solar park has more than 2,000 photovoltaic panels with an innovative technology not yet used in Andorra, the bifacial. This allows them to generate elec-

tricity from both the direct rays of the sun and those reflected on the ground. This is one of the characteristics that will serve as a pilot test, especially important in a high mountain location like this. Thus, the director of the electricity company emphasized that «solar panels at height generate more performance». This is due, according to Moles, to the fact that «the reflec-

tion caused by the snow favors the photovoltaic cell to generate more energy and the fact that it is not close to the sea is also beneficial for the technology».

Otherwise, asked about whether there could be power cuts in the winter, Moles detailed that «so far, the response capacity and the contingency plan have worked», and added that «the first step is the

management that we did now and then, if we see that it is not enough, we will try to disconnect demand in a controlled way, such as snow cannons. But we always do it in consensus with the economic sectors. And at no time we talk about cuts.»

In turn, Calvó indicated that «today we are satisfied because we were able to inaugurate the first photovoltaic park. This is a clear

example of how to increase energy sovereignty, but we also have other investments in order to be able to expand it. All these are part of a sectoral plan». At the same time, Calvó added that «before the Litecc, energy production in the country was not possible for individuals, and now we have created a small ecosystem for it to be generated. The energy crisis shows us that we are on the right track.»

It should be remembered that this infrastructure has cost 1.2 million euros and that in the next year data will be extracted so that it can serve as a pilot test for the installation of new photovoltaic infrastructures. All in all, the Grau Roig solar park will go into operation this autumn, once the usual operational and safety tests have been completed in a large industrial facility such as this one, the ANA reported. ≡



**XAVIER ESPOT**

HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«[The photovoltaic park] serves a dual purpose, which is to reduce dependence and consume renewable energy»

**SÍLVIA CALVÓ**

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

«Before Litecc, energy production in the country was not possible for individuals, and now we have created a small ecosystem»

**ALBERT MOLES**

FEDA DIRECTOR

«There will be other photovoltaic parks in the future add to the diversification strategy we have»

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EDUCATION

# The Government is raising the price of school and extra-curricular ski passes by 15%

The increase means between 3 and 5 euros of the final cost that the user must assume and in many cases it is lower than the CPI

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@PeriodicAND

Yesterday, the Government approved the prices of the daily school ski passes and the instructor's hour per student, an agreement that has been worked out with Ski Andorra and which «had to be renewed», according to the assessment of the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Ester Vilarrubla. Specifically, there has been a 15% increase in the daily school ski pass and a 7% increase in instructor hours compared to last season. Thus, the prices remain at 9.71 euros for the daily school pass and 4.59 euros per hour of tutoring per student. «We are talking about three to five euros more in different cases, which sometimes does not even correspond to the CPI», remarked the head of Education and Higher Education. At the same time, yesterday the green light was also given to the subsidy of extra-curricular, university and companion passes by the Executive, with the aim of reducing the price that users have to bear. On the one hand, the extra-curricular pass will have a final cost of 133 euros; the university pass will be 203 euros; and the companion will have different rates depending on the profile of the person. The pass for a companion under the age of 65 will cost 193 euros; the one that goes from 65 to 70 years will have a price of 77 euros; and the 70 to 74 year old will be 60 euros.

On the other hand, Education will start a pilot test during this 2022-2023 school year in a center of each education system in the country - Andorran, Spanish and French -, a test that is also included in the agreement with Ski Andorra. Going into detail, first year students in these centers will receive one more hour of tutoring per student to improve their practice. In this regard, Vilarrubla explained that «many companions were not available every day of the week to accompany the children on the slopes, moreover, the person who can teach skiing best is a pro-



► A group of children getting ready to go skiing on the ski slopes.

**The ministry is doing a pilot test with some primary school students adding an hour of tutoring**

professional», he asserted. Additionally, the new format plans to include a fourth hour dedicated to learning about nature, the activities that take place at the resorts and the operation of the resort, «because maybe after spending many years skiing all this was not known, and we want to expand it in a didactic way in each of the ages it belongs to», added the minister. Therefore, if at the end of the year the evaluation of this test is positive, the objective of the ministry is to gradually expand it in different school years.

**SCHOOL BULLYING**// On the other hand, with the aim of bringing cases of bullying more quickly and offering more opportunities to families, Edu-

cation opens a telephone line for direct contact with the ministry's inspection exclusively dedicated to the population to this matter, a tool that until now could already be used, but which many people did not know. «In this way, people do not have to think about which channels they can use», pointed out the Minister of Education and Higher Education. Thus, this service is parallel to that carried out by the teachers or from the direction of the schools. However, «if someone believes that they have not been listened to enough by their interlocutors, they can have this direct line at their disposal», Vilarrubla said. It should be remembered that the b-resol application is also active for all those people who do not want to make a phone call.



**Ester Vilarrubla**

MIN. OF EDU. AND SUP TEACHING

«Many companions were not available every day of the week to accompany the children on the ski slopes»

«[Knowledge of nature] is to be expanded in a didactic way in each of the ages it belongs to»

**TEACHERS**// Otherwise, the head of Education and Higher Education announced that the professional career of teachers can start to be implemented next year. «It is a tool that has two purposes, that of motivating and growing the staff and that of recognizing, also in terms of salary and non-salary incentives, the excellent work they carry out» pointed out Vilarrubla. At the moment, a first proposal has been prepared and is being presented to the collective, and initially, it should be completed this October. Along these lines, the process of filling the positions of managers and heads of studies will also be resolved, a fact that will help to create more jobs and, consequently, will vary the number of interims, which for some years now it tries to balance and currently stands at 20%. «Since 2016, we have consolidated more than 100 places, therefore, there must always be interims», said the minister, who added that «what should not be there are long-term interims». ≡

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