



We are looking for options for expansion in Andorra

VIRGINIA AGELET COO and Co-founder of ILERNA Online

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Online learning is becoming an increasingly attractive option for students around the world because it offers high-quality programs while remaining cheaper. Full-time study is much more expensive due to the associated living costs and expenses.

Online learning is more flexible and convenient. You can study almost anytime, at your own pace and anywhere.

We talked to Virginia Agelet, COO and Co-founder of ILERNA Online, about the advantages of online learning for students and the plans of the company to develop toward the Andorran market.

-What are the benefits of distance education? Is it cheaper?

-Distance education allows our students to combine work, family and study. It is an ideal modality for those people with family and/or professional responsibilities who want to obtain an official degree at their own pace. In addition, with ILERNA Online, students decide on the pace of study, and enrollment is modulated so that they can decide how many subjects they take each semester and pay only for them.

Thanks to the video tutorials and the permanent contact with the teachers, the students can follow the course and solve all their doubts easily.

You can study Intermediate and Advanced Training Cycles, in person at our centers all over Spain or at a distance.

We offer training courses for families in Health, IT and Communications, Image and Sound, Commerce and Marketing, Administration and Management, Sociocultural and Community Services, Physical and Sports Activities, Sports, Personal Image and Safety and Environment.

-We offer a total of 36 training



cycles in which specialists provide training.

Which training cycles are most popular with students?

-The most popular Training Cycles, both online and in-person, are those related to the healthcare world. Also noteworthy are the training cycles in Computer Science and Communications, where year after year the demand grows and with it the employment of our students.

-Concerning foreign students, what is their origin?

Most foreign students are of European origin. As with our online training, they only have to travel to Spain to take the exams and in the cycles required by the compulsory face-to-face courses.

-What is your students' employment index?

It is necessary to distinguish between the students who, with their studies at ILERNA, are looking for their first job, or are actively looking for a job and are studying to get it. In the first case,

the employment rate is around 80%. Students who already have professional positions are mostly students who study by distance and need a degree to secure their job or promote their companies.

We must also keep in mind that many students with an intermediate degree continue to study for a higher degree and once they have acquired this degree, they can also enter the university.

So approximately 35% of the students continue to study, combining or not with a job.

We have a Job Bank where collaborating companies can publish their job offers and/or internships for our students, with the advantage that the profile that the company needs can be detailed very well because we have a wide range of degrees in different fields.

-You have branches in Seville, Madrid, Tarragona, and Lleida. Do you plan to expand your network? Do you have cooperation plans with Andorra?

-We are looking for different options for expansion in Andorra. The pandemic destroyed our plans. But we had a project and we intend to resume it soon.

The ILERNA Group is currently comprised of nine face-to-face centers, seven already in operation in Seville, Madrid, where we have two centers, Lleida, Tarragona, Córdoba and Jerez; in September we plan to open a macro-center in Barcelona, in the Sagrada Familia area and a center in Campo de Gibraltar.

The group's expansion project is currently focused on northern Spain.

-You offer early childhood education. Do you help children find their first job?

-Yes, we offer the Higher Degree Training Cycle in Early Childhood Education in-person and online. Because it is a higher degree cycle, the minimum age of students is approximately 18 years as it requires an intermediate or baccalaureate degree to access it.

We collaborate with different companies all over Spain so that our students can conduct compulsory internships in work centers.

-How competitive are your prices compared to other universities in Spain and neighboring France?

-Being a Vocational Training Center, we cannot compare our prices with those of the University as these are different pieces of training. ≡

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SOCIOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY

42% of the population is at risk of mental health problems

Housing and wages continue to be the areas of most concern to citizens, according to surveys

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Approximately 42% of citizens are at risk for mental health problems related to depression, anxiety, or both. This is clear from the results of the sociological observatory of Research + Innovation Andorra (ARI) during the first half of the current year, in which the coordinator of the axis of society of the same body, Joan Micó, stressed that "this is a growing trend involving various factors such as the pandemic and the rise in the cost of living."

Through the Goldberg Test procedure, a battery of questions was conducted to the respondents in the study sample related to aspects related to the symptoms of anxiety and depression, respectively, in order to verify the potential to achieve these mental affectations in each of the subjects. Thus, the experts determined that 6.8% of those who answered the questionnaire are possible cases of anxiety and 16.7% have a high probability of experiencing cases of depression, while 18.9% of the samples can develop problems of both pathologies at the same time.

Qualified professionals have long experienced difficulties in the cost of living

Some of the questions that were asked to determine the potential for the psychological effects of anxiety revolve around nervousness, worry, difficulty relaxing or sleeping; while those related to depression have to do with the feeling of lack of energy, interest in things, weight loss or difficulty concentrating. In addition, the majority of possible pathological cases are women, «who have increased by seven percentage points compared to 2021 records.»

With regard to the main concerns of citizens, the price and accessibility of housing is once again in first place, followed by the levels of wage bands and social benefits, pensions and health. Going into the details of the concerns, almost half of the respondents (49%) describe housing as the main subject that should be improved at the



► The coordinator of the society axis of Research + Innovation Andorra, Joan Micó, during the presentation of the results of the surveys.

national level, which is an increase of two points over the barometer of the previous observatory. In terms of wages, with one point more than the last survey, 24% of the sample consider this to be the most worrying fact. In contrast, the survey shows «the decrease in concern in relation to traffic management from 22% to 14% and car parks with a decrease of 12% to 7.5% of respondents,» said Micó.

On the other hand, the ARI pointed out that one of the facts that continues with a growing trend, which has been able to consolidate in this sociological exercise, is the detection of a remarkable increase in the group of qualified professionals to face the rising cost of living. Thus, Micó states that «so far there has been no growth of this magnitude in this group, which usually does not have as many economic difficul-



Joan Micó
ARI SOCIETY AXIS COORDINATOR

«There has been a significant drop in the number of people worried about traffic management from 22% to 14%»

«The context in which the fieldwork takes place must be taken into account because it can condition the final results»

ties». Thus, the results of the survey reflect that about 20% of technicians, professionals and administrators surveyed consider housing conditions as the main reason for concern, while 16% of people in charge of managers, owners and middle management feel threatened for the same reason.

Finally, it should be noted that this study was carried out in the Andorran population over the age of 18 and a total sample of 753 people was selected at random via telephone call. Similarly, the ARI stated that the confidence level of the results corresponds to 95.5%, while the margin of error revolves around 3.6%. As for the fieldwork, it was carried out between April 1st and 12th, so "the context in which the work is carried out must always be taken into account because it can condition the answers" Micó said. ≡

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