



DIFFICULTIES TO BECOME A MEMBER

# Professionals report bureaucratic hindrances to enter Copsia

They regret that «the law of the funnel» applies to us and that there are demands that cannot be covered | Sílvia Palau defends that the statutes were voted by the assembly and that they offer «a quality service»

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A group of psychologists denounces bureaucratic hindrances to be part of the Official College of Psychologists (Copsia). And according to the institution's statutes, to enroll you need a Bachelor's degree in Psychology or studies equivalent to 300 credits. It should be taken into account that in 2009, as part of the Bologna Plan, the 300-credit degrees were replaced by 240-credit degrees, so that a complement of 60 credits is currently needed through a master's degree. This master's degree must be official, that is to say, recognized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, a no easy task, taking into account that «there are no official master's degrees - usually they are proprietary - in specializations such as psychotherapy, psycho-oncology or human resources», as pointed out by those affected. With regard to the degree requirement, they criticize that it was established in this way in 2020, when it had already been more than a decade since its eradication, «taking advantage of the possibility that a decree issued by the Ministry of Education». «We think they did it to prevent new members from entering and to have more of the pie for them, because if you're not registered you can't practice», says a victim who has just graduated abroad and intended to open his consultation in the Principality.

«The situation is even more serious when you realize that there are figures who are being sued and at the time of truth they cannot be covered by this trap», adds a colleague. In this sense, the sources assured that in recent months «different professionals who were going to access both public and private vacancies have been left out of the competition at the time of being hired». Likewise, the collective complains that it is not specified that the master's degree required to cover the credits missing from the degree are in the field of psychology: «I can have a degree in psychology and a master's degree in translation and interpretation - that is official - and become a member. On the other



► Image of a consultation with a psychologist.

**Those affected remember** that if you are not registered you cannot exercise and that you are «excluding colleagues»

hand, if I have a Degree in Psychology and a Master's in Psychotherapy - which is not official -, no», they exemplified. For all that, they deduce that the Copsia statutes «are not focused on regulating that professionals who serve people have a minimum qualification», but rather «the law of the funnel is being applied». «The association of psychologists must take care of the profession and not generate lobbies that exclude colleagues», they stated. From the Copsia, its president, Sílvia Palau, replied, however, that, alt-

hough the college is based on the Andorran framework of qualifications, «we do ask that the master's degrees are related to psychology because we look after the population in general and to offer a quality service». The most «paradoxical» thing, in the words of those affected, is that if this criterion established by the previous board were applied, and preserved by the current one, «the majority of members would be left out, because either they do not have a master's degree or it's not official.» «But this is the case everywhere, as

it happens with any law», answered Palau, adding that, despite the fact that the entity «evaluates each case individually, we must follow statutes that were approved by the general assembly».

Regarding the situation in neighboring countries, those affected explained that the Degree in Psychology is sufficient to attend college and its membership is not required to work in the public or non-therapeutic sector (private practice). In addition, they took the opportunity to denounce the fees of the country's professionals, «which are agreed upon by the college and which must be complied with». In this sense, they made it clear that the same measure was overturned a few years ago in Catalonia because it «attempted against market freedom and did not allow professionals to set the price freely, which could imply that some of them, for ethical reasons,

**They also criticize** that the fees are agreed by the entity, which goes against the freedom of the market

for example, they decided to lower them». «It is an unwanted competition, despite the fact that in the last instance it benefits the patient», they lamented.

Finally, it should be remembered that in recent months the Copsia has been working with the Ministry of Health to the last details in order to be part of the portfolio of services of the CASS. One of the inclusion criteria will be that the professional can enter through training or experience. In the first case, it will be necessary to accredit a specific master's degree in the clinical field with adults or children and young people, depending on your specialization. «We hope that it will be specified that it will have to be a degree of its own, because there are currently no official master's degrees in clinical care for adults, so, with the current statutes, no psychologist will be able to accredit it», warned the affected group. ≡

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GENERAL COUNCIL

# The municipalities have granted nearly 300 planning licenses to date

The PS denounces Espot's «ambiguities» regarding its position on sustainable construction

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The municipalities have granted, to date, a total of 297 project licenses and partial urban planning plans so far this year. This was stated by the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, after the question of the General Councilor of the Social Democratic Party (PS) Joaquim Miró in the session of oral control questions to the Government that took place last Thursday. Compared to the figures of 2021 (364), this is a number that approaches it, despite the fact that the opposition once again criticized «the call effect produced by the announcement of these measures during the Debate of Political Orientation, which has caused the opposite effect to the brake on the construction sector by opening a freeway to the developers», indicated the president of the PS, Pere López.

In the same way, the social democrats stated that the Executive creates «ambiguities» in the position of the Head of Government towards the new sustainable construction law. So much so that López affirmed, pointing to Espot, that «it is not possible that one day he will defend in his parliamentary session that this law is a clear brake on national construction and then bow to the business owners and emphasize that all buildings go ahead». In response, Espot defended that «the Go-

vernment maintains its consistency and we continue to argue that this law is an intermediate solution that will take into account the same intrinsic elements and some extrinsic additions to filter the building». Following this line, he reaffirmed that the will of the Executive is to establish a deeper debate to find a «structural» solution.

**ACCESS TO GRIFOLS WITHOUT GUARANTEES** // Regarding the intervention of the non-affiliated councilor Carine Montaner, she asked the Government for explanations about the start of the works on the Sornàs roundabout that will lead to the future P3 laboratory of Grifols without the approval of the courts. Thus, Espot responded that, in compliance with the law, after checking the administrative acts, «these must be executed unless the Court rules otherwise».

**REFORMS AT THE HOSPITAL** // In relation to Montaner's question regarding the budget allocated to the reforms of the Nostra Senyora de Meritxell Hospital and the health services, the Minister of Health, Albert Font, explained that some of the works are intended the improvement of access and others were given special consideration given the circumstances of the pandemic. Thus, he indicated that the most important expenses amount to over 1.2 million euros, between the plans to re-



» Image of the ordinary session of the General Council.

new and improve the functions of the SAAS and the special adaptations of the UCI.

Eight years of concessionaire/ On the other hand, López asked the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víc-

tor Filloy, the economic reasons for the expansion of the Envalira Tunnel concession for more than eight years. In this regard, Filloy responded that the temporary extension is due to the «mis-adjustment»



**Xavier Espot**  
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«The Executive maintains its consistency in that it is an intermediate solution to filter the building»

**Pere López**  
PRESIDENT OF PS

«It has caused the opposite effect of a brake on the construction sector by opening a freeway to the developers»

that the pandemic caused to traffic throughout 2020 (-30%) and 2021 (-21%). He also added that this is a change that is legally contemplated in the contract with the concessionaire. ≡

# Temporary workers will not have the free bus service

Filloy warns that adopting this measure would entail a total expenditure of 900,000 euros counting all the months of skiing

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ANDORRA LA VELLA

Temporary residents will not enjoy the free bus service during the winter season. This was pointed out by the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy, after the question in his parliamentary seat by the non-affiliated councilor Carine Montaner. In this way, the ministry calculates that, until today, the pilot test of free transport as an improvement of the purchasing power of the po-

pulation amounts to over 3.7 million euros.

Referring again to the group of temporary workers, Filloy pointed out that «we cannot think at any time that they are helpless, since the monthly allowance comes to one euro a day and, at this point, the Government has also had to make a considerable effort». Likewise, he mentioned the ease of access, mobility and transport offered to temporary workers, adding that «there are so-

me contracting companies that offer vehicles for workers, which is an added value».

Continuing on the same point, the minister acknowledged that, taking into account the studies carried out by the ministry, the enabling of free public transport for temporary workers would entail an expenditure for public coffers of 900,000 euros if we take into account the six months that the winter season lasts.

Subcontracting problems/ On the

other hand, the Government admitted that «if necessary, the regulation on labor relations should be revised to clarify some problems that may be generated by subcontracted companies from foreign countries that come to perform specific tasks», indicated Espot. In this sense, the social democratic general councilor Judith Salazar stated that «as we could see in some examples of workers on the Clot d'Emprivat works with working conditions in their country of ori-

gin that are inferior to those in Andorra», it would be necessary to clarify whether this situation generates «imbalances between companies due to the conditions of the workforce». At the same time, the Executive again showed itself open to work to check if a legal reinforcement is needed both in the Labor Relations Code, and in those aspects of the law that involve the temporary entry of foreign workers into the Principality to complete an order ≡

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