



PEOPLE WITH FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY

The personal assistant will be included in the CASS portfolio of services

Amida meets with Social Affairs to define the professional requirements that the profile must meet

People with quadriplegia will benefit the most, since «they are highly dependent»

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The Association of People with Functional Diversity (Amida) has been demanding the figure of the personal assistant for years, which is included in the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Andorra ratified in 2007. This demand, however, is will soon become a reality and will become part of CASS's portfolio of services, as assured by the president of Amida, Agustina Grandvallet, to EL PERIÒDIC. Thus, to launch this profile, the association met last September 9th with the Secretary of State for Social Affairs, Youth and Equality, Teresa Milà; the director of the Department of Social Affairs, Joan Carles Vilaverde; and the head of the Personal Autonomy Promotion area, Raquel Guàrdia, in a first meeting that served to start defining the requirements that a personal assistant must meet, the hours of training he/she needs and who are the ideal people to develop the project, since «not everyone is ready», she assessed. At the same time, the president of the entity indicated that a professional from Spain will be hired who will travel to the Principality in order to provide training that will last a minimum of 50 hours. Although a calendar has not yet been established to launch this figure, Grandvallet deduced that the Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality, Judith Pallarés, will make statements about it on December 3rd, coinciding with the International Day of People with Disabilities.

Specifically, «a personal assistant is the eyes and hands of the disabled person, he does everything he can't



TONY LARA

► An image of a person with functional diversity in Andorra.

do, accompanies him shopping, travels with him or cooks and, ultimately, makes up for what he lacks physically and mentally», said Grandvallet, who also pointed out that once it is regulated in the country, it will coexist with the services offered by home care and volunteering, two alternatives that are relevant for «more specific needs». Along these lines, the three figures also coexist in neighboring countries. As a dif-

ferentiating feature, home care is based more on the medical model, and consists of a care service more focused on meeting needs at home. In addition, this task can also be done by a family member. The volunteers, for their part, accompany, especially the elderly. However, a personal assistant takes as a reference the independent life model, and is that figure who is «neither seen nor noticed», who has maximum dedi-

cation and great sensitivity. In this case, a family member cannot perform his function, because «he values not only the needs of the person with functional diversity, but his own». Going into more detail, the relationship they establish must be based on a special connection and, if this is not achieved, someone else must be found to do the task, because «it must be as if they were the same person», explained the presi-



AGUSTINA GRANDVALLET
PRESIDENT OF THE AMIDA

«A personal assistant is the eyes and hands of the disabled person, he does everything he can't do [...], he makes up for everything he lacks»

«Even if there are only two people who need the service, they must be given the opportunity to have an independent life»

dent of Amida.

Those who will benefit the most from the personal assistant will be people with quadriplegia, because «they have a high dependency», asserted Grandvallet, who also reported that they need attention between 8 and 24 hours a day. However, she assured that each case must be assessed and, «even if there are only two people who need this service, they must be given the opportunity to have a completely independent life». ≡

NATIONAL INSURANCE

The retirement reserve fund loses 122 million in one semester

The asset portfolio suffers a negative return of almost -9%

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

In just six months the retirement reserve fund of the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS) has lost 122 million euros, according to the report published yesterday by the parastate. Coincidentally, this is the

same growth figure experienced throughout the 2021 financial year, when the portfolio reached a total of 1,585.7 million euros, thanks to variable income. The president of the fund's management committee, Jordi Cinca, already explained before the summer in an appearance at the General Council that this 2022 had started with losses and, on June 30th, the value of the portfolio was little more than 1,463.7 million euros.

A trend that has been maintained during the second semester until weakening by -8.91%. The report, of 102 pages and available on the CASS website, however, is ironic, because the data are very similar to other international pension funds and investment funds with a risk profile and asset distribution, such as those of Switzerland (-9.47%), Spain (-8.3%) and Italy (-8.3%). In the euro zone, for example, the return is -11.09%.

It should be remembered that the

portfolio is made up of monetary assets and fixed variable income from international markets. Of these 122 million euros that have been lost, 80 million correspond to variable income investments with monetary losses of absolute figures of 23 million and a fixed income of 16.3 million.

With these losses, therefore, the law that requires the performance of the fund to go in the same line as the cost of living will not be fulfilled, bearing in mind that the situation could get even worse in the coming months. Going into the details of this year's data, we find that from January to March the fund lost 52.97 million euros, while from April to June it was 68.8 million less. ≡



MARICEL BLANCH

► The CASS building.

SAFETY

The law proposal for traffic agents, in parliamentary procedure

The text aims to reinforce the principle of authority of professionals, who become part of a special body

EL PERIÒDIC
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Last Thursday, the seven municipalities entered the General Council's register of the traffic officers' law proposal so that the parliamentary procedure can begin. The consul major of Encamp and president of the interparochial traffic commission, Laura Mas, formally presented the proposed law, representing all the municipalities, which has been worked on for the last two years within the commission and which will replace the current law of 2005. The consul was received by the general trustee, Roser Suñé, and the deputy trustee, Meritxell Palmitjavila.

The proposed law will now follow the parliamentary process. The syndicate will order its publication, it will be forwarded to the Government, so that within 15 days it can express its opinion, and, subsequently, it can be included in the

The municipalities want qualitative and quantitative improvements that allow them to evolve to a higher instance

agenda of the plenary session so that it can be taken into consideration by the General Council, and if so, an amendment period would be opened and then the proposal would follow the procedure provided for bills.

The document submitted to the register of the General Council has been approved by the seven municipalities in their respective municipal councils, during the last weeks, and has the approval of all the members of the interparochial commission made up of representatives of the body of agents of circulation. The aim of this new text, which should replace the current regulations of 2005, is to provide qualitative and quantitative im-



► The deputy trustee, Meritxell Palmitjavila, the trustee, Roser Suñé, and the Consul Major of Encamp, Laura Mas, representing the seven municipalities, in the Council.

provements, both in the functional and operational areas, which allow the body of municipal agents to evolve into a professional instance of higher level, in the provision of service to citizens and in the fulfillment of the duty entrusted to them, they report from Encamp.

The main changes revolve around four major aspects. First of all, to determine that traffic agents are a special body in the field of municipal administration, taking into account the fact that according to the definition provided for in the new civil service law, traffic agents are jobs of permanent with attributions that involve the exercise of authority, prerogatives of public

Workers must have, at least, a secondary education degree and level B1 of Catalan

power, they organize their working day in shifts taking into account that they have to provide the service 24 hours a day, they are uniformed and until they have followed and passed a specific training are not able to exercise all of their functions.

Secondly, the new law seeks to strengthen the principle of autho-

riety and expand the functions of traffic agents, taking into account the current reality in which they carry out tasks of prevention and proximity to the citizen and of support and coordination with other special bodies, contributing to the improvement of the professional image of the body.

Thirdly, the text provides initiatives and solutions to the collective's current shortcomings, to guarantee the provision of an «effective public service, which allows the optimization of the available resources and based on the search for excellence continued».

And, finally, it wants to promote the contribution of functional

value, the corporate image and the honor of the body, developing the elaboration of a professional career plan, which provides for initial, continued, specialized, degree, and updated training if necessary on a daily basis.

Specifically, and with reference to the article, some of the main changes are that traffic agents are recognized as agents of the authority, given that they become a special body and, therefore, with incompatibility to carry out any other professional activity. For a better performance of their functions, the possibility is foreseen, exceptionally and with reason, that in relation to the functions of inspection and control, except for those of road safety and traffic controls, they can go without the regulatory uniform. It is also foreseen the possibility of them carrying mobile video surveillance devices for their protection and the protection of the citizen. The name of the coordinating body for municipal traffic services is changed, for interparochial body for traffic services as well as its composition: the most important, the three agent representatives become one for each scale, superior, technical and basic.

In relation to the general access requirements, the same are established as for the rest of the municipality staff. It is only determined by law that the basic requirement to access the position of traffic agent is to have a second-level graduate degree, and all traffic agents must be in possession of the B1 level Catalan degree, with the exception of the head of the service who must possess the C1 level. It is also clarified that for the internal promotion of agents it is necessary to go through each level within the scale with the training and years of permanence established by regulation. Finally, it should be noted that the trial period is introduced for all internal promotions at the different scales.

With regard to the disciplinary regime for traffic agents, infringements and sanctions are the same as for the rest of the staff of the municipalities. ≡

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