

## IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

# The Andorran School ends the school year with satisfaction and normalcy in the classroom

The director points out that between November and February the system felt «collapsed» by the covid

The activity will resume with a new project of Revista Digital Educativa among the biggest

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

@PeriodicAND

With the boys and girls on summer vacation for a few days now, teachers are also starting to end the 2021-22 school year. As the director of the Andorran School, Mayte Casals, explained to EL PERIÒDIC, the balance of this school year has been «positive, despite the course we have had». And it is that as she remarked, «in September it seemed that it would be a normal course, but immediately we saw that of normality, nothing». «I feel that we were able to finish satisfactorily, doing the end-of-year trips and all the activities we had scheduled both inside and outside the schools», said the principal, who said that «it was an

**Casals is grateful** for the «unconditional effort» of the whole group, which has allowed the students to have the «minimum impact»

important challenge, because this year, the situation arising from the health crisis that we had between November and February collapsed a lot for us «, emphasizing that» normalizing school practice has been a challenge».

Specifically, Casals points out that it was from mid-February that «we started to have a normal course», due to the fact that many students and teachers had had the covid, so little by little this number was stabilizing high school leave and students who had to follow the school activity from home». In short, the director considers that «from March the thing began to normalize». All in all, many teachers and management teams, according to Casals, «tell us that they have been like two courses in one», which has caused us to «finish the course with fatigue».

That is why, from the Andorran School, its director wants to «thank the unconditional effort of the who-



► A student and a teacher entering a classroom.

le group of education workers», highlighting «their professionalism and vocation for a year that has returned to be developed in a complicated context», and favoring that «the students had a minimum affectation». And at the same time, she was also pleased with «the confidence of the families and their help in carrying out our projects».

**SCHOOL NEWS** // Thus, with the desire to leave behind definitively the pandemic of the coronavirus and its affectation to the development of the activity in the education, Casals exposes that «next year, each center will start his project of improvement», while highlighting a project that will be promoted from September between students from the three secondary schools and the high school system. This is the Revista Di-



**Mayte Casals**

DIRECTOR OF THE ANDORRAN SCHOOL

«We finished the course satisfactorily, but with fatigue. Teachers tell us that they have been like two courses in on»

gital Educativa, a program that was born as «a tool for students to develop their communication skills» by writing content. «It's a project where the students are the editors, and we will have journalists who can help us», explains Casals. Also, another of the objectives of the next course is to start «the approach of the work by competences in the first cycle of the first education», in order to «have all the schooling through a system of competences».

On the other hand, around the projects implemented during the academic year 2021-22, the director shares that from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, this academic year there has been an emphasis on a plan to encourage reading, which they were able to accommodate the centers of all the educational systems of the co-

untry. In this line, Casals also mentioned two other days among the entire educational community, regardless of their system of origin, held during the last year, as the activity promoted by the MoraBanc Andorra against school bullying in which boys and girls between 12 and 14 years old took part, or the last robotics competition, which allowed teachers to exchange experiences in the subject.

In any case, the good result of these days makes the Andorran School think that «it would be very interesting to go ahead and contemplate more interscholastic activities», beyond those currently held in different sports. «It's always good to be able to carry out new projects that involve, from different subjects, that students from the three educational systems can meet», she said. ≡

Don't miss any special editions  
of **El Periòdic!**



## ECONOMY

# Fitch Ratings raises Andorra's rating of the BBB + to the A-

Jover indicates that the country is on a good path to gain resilience and highlights international reserves

EL PERIÒDIC  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@PeriodicAND

The rating agency Fitch Ratings has improved the rating of Andorra. Specifically, the Principality raises the last grade obtained, BBB +, and is in the A- with a stable outlook, as was evident in the note published by the entity last night. Thus, as highlighted by the Minister of Spokesman and Finance, Eric Jover, the Government welcomes this new assessment, which stressed that «it is the best that Fitch Ratings makes us since we work with them, that is, since September 2015», while stressing

**The Minister emphasizes** that this note is a good cover letter for foreign investors

that «it is a recognition of the good work done over the years».

The entity's report highlighted, on the one hand, the management carried out by the Principality during 2021 with regard to the coronavirus pandemic and the economic decisions taken by companies. According to the minister, the progressive stabilization allowed to reduce the aid to the business and social fabric and a recovery of the indicators began, as it is the case of the budget deficit, which «was more moderate than they anticipated in the beginnings». They also highlighted better-than-calculated economic growth. In short, «Andorra's economic result has exceeded its expectations, and they have valued it positively». In terms of elements of the financial structure, we note the consolidated resilience thanks to advances such as the gradual return to budget balance and a moderate level of indebtedness. At this point, the head of Finance stressed that Fitch Ratings had emphasized the policy of establishing international reserves: «they consider it a very positive element and a step in the right direction to have even more resilien-



►► The facade of the entity's headquarters, located in New York

ce». However, he acknowledged that the agency «reports that it is not as powerful a tool as a lender of last resort, so we still need to keep improving». It should be borne in mind that Andorra currently has a total of 240 million euros in international reserves, of which 100 through the Spanish Banc and 140 more from Andorran participation in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, the Executive's goal is to reach 340 million, which is why they are in talks with the Netherlands and France. In any case, the government is aware of the need for the lender of last resort, and that is why Jover reaffirmed that they are working on it, and that in fact, it is a task that began in previous legislatures. Ultimately, other aspects highlighted by the body in the assessment of the Principality were a minor impact on the country in terms of the war in Ukraine - reflected in the latest inflation data, where the Andorran is lower than the European average, and the latest statistical work, which provides more reliable information on the country's progress. But what does it mean for Andorra to improve this assessment? Well, according to



**Eric Jover**

MINISTER SPOKESMAN AND FINANCE

«It's the best assessment that Fitch Ratings gives us since we've been working with them. It is a recognition of the good work done»

«They consider international reserves a very positive element, but not as powerful a tool as a lender of last resort»

the minister, one of the first points is «a direct impact when it comes to asking for funding», meaning that «millions of euros would be saved in financial costs if, for example, we were to finance again our debt with international bonds». He also stressed that there would be a more intangible implication such as being able to facilitate the arrival of «foreign investors as well as international institutions or agencies that rely heavily or follow the rating recommendations to make or not invest in a country». That is, this assessment becomes «a cover letter that indicates that we are doing things right».

In any case, Andorra aims to be able to improve this assessment, and according to the minister, the two keys to achieving this are resilience and homologation. «What these rating agencies value most is resilience», Jover said, referring to issues such as reducing and diversifying debt, as well as «propping up our economy» to improve it. And among the tasks to be carried out to gain approval, the head of Finance highlighted the work done by approving financial legal texts, transparency and the approach to the European Union. ≡

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad