

IMACA 2021 REPORT

The ACA is committed to training to reduce road accidents

He believes the challenge is to «train good drivers», as the traffic code «is already restrictive enough»

In the last year, speeding penalties have been reduced and alcohol and drugs have been increased

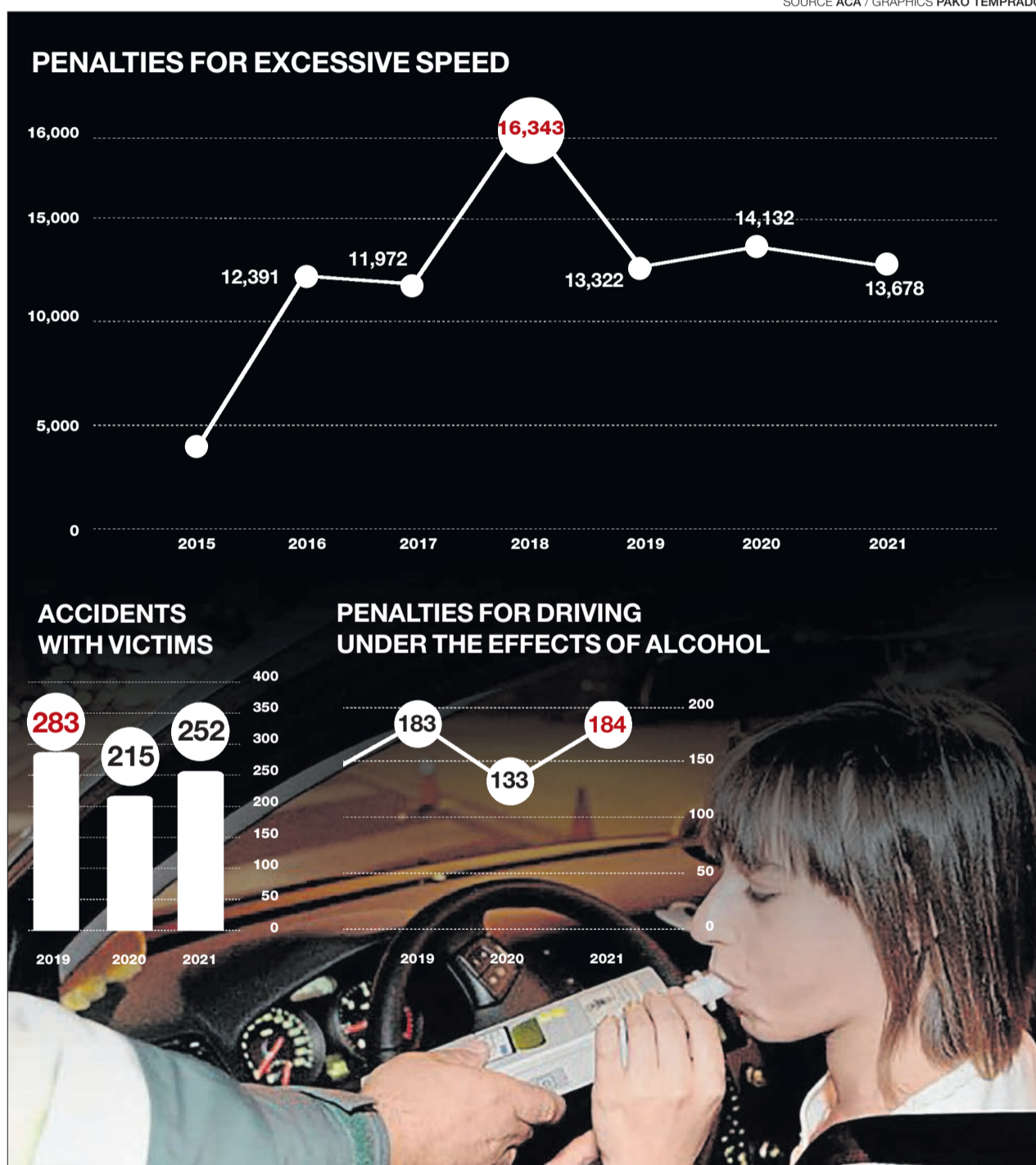
EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

The Automobile Club of Andorra (ACA) considers that the new traffic code «is already restrictive enough» and «is a road that works very well», but in sanctions «it has exceeded the limit», so now we must bet on «training good drivers» and not increase penalties, as stated yesterday by the secretary general of the entity, Toti Sasplugas, during the presentation of the Imaca 2021 report that took place in the auditorium of Mora-Banc of Andorra la Vella.

«We have never been too aligned in a single way to avoid accidents, such as increased sanctions, but we've always thought that training is very relevant; for us it is so significant that there are coercive elements, although it would be very poor to stay in it, like training good drivers, because 95% of accidents depend on the human factor, and that is why we should continue with awareness campaigns». In short, added Sasplugas, «we have more time to teach the right driving than to continue to penalize with fines or sanctions».

This option could include retraining, rethinking training models, taking snow driving courses, accident experiences, visiting accident victims or a points card. «Whoever doesn't drive well is the driver, so we have to focus on that, because if you pay 200 euros for a penalty or the car or driver's license is left, you will pay them and you will abide by it, but you will continue to be a bad driver, so we have to train and raise awareness» said the ACA Secretary General.

According to Sasplugas, «the driving effect is very important, and it can be affected with awareness campaigns, which is a relevant part that we must not ignore, but there are also other factors, such as the coincidence of the facts, the optimal state of the public road or the modernity of the mobile fleet, as is the case in Andorra, so if we have the driver as the most important variable in accidents, it is important that we continue to focus on awareness».



Accidents with casualties rise compared to 2020, but the figures are similar in relation to the pre-pandemic years

The work provides some positive data with respect to 2020 –the year of the pandemic–, such as the drop in speeding sanctions, but draws a similar scenario with respect to 2019 (the year of the pandemic) with regard to the major indicators in sanctions and accidents. «We are returning to pre-pandemic effects, the data is too linear, so little has been achieved and it is difficult for the campaigns to have an impact; in short, it is difficult to im-

prove as drivers, we are not able to download any worrying data in a radical way, there is a lot of room for improvement», lamented the Secretary General of the ACA.

The report details that speeding penalties are down. Thus, in 2021 they stand at 13,678 (-5.73%), a figure similar to that of 2019 (13,322), and lower than in 2020 (14,132). On the other hand, penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol increased by 38.35%. In this con-



Toti Sasplugas

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ACA

«The driving effect is relevant, and it can be addressed with awareness, but there are other factors to consider»

«We fail to download any worrying data radically; there is a lot of room for improvement, little has been achieved»

text, the age group that groups the most sanctions is the one that goes from 30 to 49 years with a total of 268 sanctions, above the data recorded in 2020 (231) and climbing towards those of 2019 (288).

In terms of accidents, accidents increased by 18.3% in general. In 2021, 496 accidents were registered, in 2020 there were 419 and in 2019, a total of 520 took place. Along the same lines, there is an increase in traffic accidents with victims: 252 in 2021 (215 in 2020 and 283 in 2019).

In the presentation of the Imaca report of the ACA, which celebrates 10 years, a balance was made of this period and it was announced that from next year the entity will stop publishing data on mobility and will move this responsibility to the Government Statistics Department. From there, the ACA will be organizing round tables to present initiatives from other countries with the aim of making them known and stimulating debate. Yesterday it started with the car connected. ≡

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

YOUTH

CREI is delaying its implementation until July or August

Pallarés states that they want to approve the tender this week, despite being pending the opinion of the associations

CONSELL GENERAL / EDUARD COMELLAS

EL PERIÒDIC
ANDORRA LA VELLA
@PeriodicAND

The Residential Center for Intensive Education (CREI) is delaying its opening by at least a month. A few days before the end of June - the date initially scheduled for the opening of the center - the Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality, Judith Pallarés, confirmed yesterday that the deadline is extended, with the aim to be able to open the doors of the center for the month of July or August. In fact, the first step for this new temporary goal will be to approve, this week, the tender for the space to the winning company of the competition: «We are working to pass the information and make a decision on Wednesday, at the meeting of the Council of Ministers; and if it's not Wednesday, it will be throughout the week. At the same time, the minister also plans to hold meetings with the associations in order to have their opinion on the applications received and the options they present due to the fact that «they wanted to know where this public-private management was going and how it had to be determine».

In this way, once the person in charge of providing the service to the CREI has been chosen, the contract will be signed and it will have to begin the process of hiring staff, with the idea of the Executive that «as soon as we have professionals working at the center, we will use it», and «we can start recovering some of the young people we have outside». For all this, and without going into a vehement statement about the opening date of the CREI, Pallarés mentioned that «we think that the month of July will be dedicated to this launch, and as soon as it is, we do not want to wait any longer.»

These statements by the head of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality were subsequent to his appearance before the Legislative Commission on Education, Research, Culture, Youth and Sports, in order to present the progress of the public policies that must be developed according to the Youth Agreement, approved less than a year ago by the General Council. As Pallarés sha-



► The Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality, Judith Pallarés, at a time of her appearance.



JUDITH PALLARÉS
MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
YOUTH AND EQUALITY

«As soon as we have professionals working, we will give it utility. We will be able to recover some young people we have outside»

red, the 72 proposals for action presented by young people include various topics, pointing out that the document is «the backbone for youth policies from all areas», while at the same time including them, more and more, in those decision-making positions and making them

participants». «It is not just a direct action, but a shared task,» said the minister. Thus, Pallarés placed the issues of environment, education and housing, as those that most concern young people and urge solutions, which is why «there have been issues marked as priorities and

we are already working on them». In this sense, despite not having a specific assessment of the level of achievement of the proposals, the Minister said that «we are satisfied with the progress of the work», and was confident that «we will see how over the months there will be a very high degree of compliance with the proposals.

In this sense, during the presentation to the councilors and through their questions, some elements have been highlighted such as the development of studies on access to housing or on political disaffection, among other matters, in order to have data that is public and transversal; social and labor reintegrati-

on programs; accessibility of public transport; sexual health promotion; the implementation of the figure of the street educator; the promotion of young entrepreneurship; or the promotion of cultural consumption. It should be noted that many of the measures mentioned yesterday required the approval of the National Youth Plan (NPC), which, as the minister indicated, «we think could be drawn up by the end of the year». Earlier, the ministry will meet again with representatives of the Council of Europe in October, who will give them a return of the conclusions obtained during their visit a few weeks ago and thus be able to perfect a text that already has «a job advanced». ≡

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