

DIGITALIZATION

Andorra moves from 26th to 11th place in the European digitization index

In just four years, it has managed to surpass itself by far and place itself above the European average

ANA/ M. F.

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In just four years, Andorra has moved from 26th to 11th place in the European Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) and has improved in 30 of the 32 aspects analyzed. This means that by now it is «above the European average», a goal that was pursued for 2023 and which has been «more than achieved», as assessed by the Secretary of State for Digital Transformation, Marc Rossell, who presented the results and a new project for the digitization of companies, an aspect that, precisely, still needs to be influenced to improve this European index. The index analyzes the country's digital skills, digital infrastructures, the digital transformation of companies and the digitization of public services. In the first two aspects, Andorra is well above the European average. In fact, the country is placed in the first position, being the European leader in telecommunications infrastructures, and also in the use of the internet.

Regarding the digitalization of companies and public services, the statistics indicate that Andorra still has room for improvement, being close to the European average, but still slightly below. On the other hand, there is an increase in the number of users of the Electronic Administration.

The Secretary of State pointed out that the aim is to be able to



The Secretary of State for Digital Transformation and Telecommunications, Marc Rossell, during the press conference.

adapt the support that is already offered to companies in the country to provide basic and essential solutions for each sector: «With the new developments, we strengthen the program and promote the improvement of level of digital maturity of the business sector», explained Ros-

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sell.

Among the novelties is that companies that want to be able to apply for a direct subsidy for the hiring of basic digital services for each sector (trade, hospitality, restaurants and professional offices), while giving way to a line of transversal solutions for all. Aid will range from 6,000 euros for micro-companies (from 1 to 5 workers) up to 3,000 euros for large companies (more than 100 workers). Among others, it will be possible to subsidize the development of web pages to become an online store, you can request training to improve SEO positioning or digitization training, as regards the transversal package.

As for commerce, it offers to subsidize the digitization of internal management and online sales, for hospitality and catering, the aid will be accompanied by a boost to tools to make online reservations and manage care to the customer. As for professional offices, they can also be subsidized for data analytics and the promotion of digitization processes.

On the other hand, they also reported that the demand for subsidies is facilitated, since more than one digitization service or solution can be requested in a single application. The suppliers that the companies wish to hire for the solutions must be registered in the catalog of providers of digital services and solutions on the Andorra Digital website.●

POLITICS

AE enters a bill for the regulation of CBD products

It allows CBD with less than 0.30% THC content

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The parliamentary group Andorra Endavant has submitted a bill for the regulation of CBD products in Andorra. In the exposition, they explain that the current legislation does not adequately distinguish between the different components of the cannabis plant, especially between THC, which has psychoactive effects, and CBD, recognized for its therapeutic and healing properties. Going into detail, in the proposed law they state that the object of the Law is the regulation of cultivation in the Principality, the importation of processed products or flowers, the industrial and commercial use of CBD products for safety of consumers and with respect to public health. Regarding the authorization of CBD, they state that the cultivation, import, export and industrial and commercial use



General Counselor Carine Montaner.

They also urge the creation of a laboratory to analyze suspect products and ensure compliance with the Law

of CBD products with a THC content of less than 0.30% is allowed and with respect to the prohibition of other substances with concentrations defined by ministerial regulations following the updated list of substances with a concentration level prohibited by the European Medicines Agency. Regarding the cultivation of CBD, only national farmers with «Cultiu CBD Andorra» certification could grow hemp flowers and leaves with EU-cer-

tified seeds. On the other hand, an official laboratory would also be created to analyze suspicious products and ensure compliance with the legislation.

Finally, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture will have to present specific regulations in line with the new law and the Penal Code will be amended to exclude CBD from the consideration of a toxic drug based on the criteria defined by this law. ●

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