

# el Periòdic News

PROJECT APPROVED BY THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

## The FJA promotes a pioneering study on the employment situation of young people

The project, endowed with 15,000 euros, will analyze everything from working conditions to work-life balance and rights

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The Andorran Youth Forum has initiated a project to study in depth the employment situation of young people in the country. The director of the organization, Anthony Francome, announced that the initiative has been approved and funded by the European Youth Foundation, with a contribution of 15,000 euros. “We have the opportunity to carry out a much more powerful statistical study than those we have done so far,” he told to EL PERIÒDIC.

The study will focus on collecting “more human data” that will allow a better understanding of the factors that affect the working lives of young people. Among the aspects that will be analyzed are personal work-life balance, economic resilience, job rotation and generational differences in expectations and working conditions. According to Francome, “the conditions offered by companies are often not attractive”.

The project is structured in four phases. The first is the preparation of the statistical study, in collaboration with the AR+I and the Department of Statistics; the second consists of “interaction with professional associations and associations, unions and other actors to define the relevant indicators”; the third will be the dissemination phase, “with a virtual platform where young people can share their



The director and president of the Andorran Youth Forum, Anthony Francome and Lisa Cruz, in a file image.

work experiences anonymously”, and, finally, the fourth phase aims to “educate politicians so that they can develop realistic and informed public policies”.

The analysis will also take into account aspects such as the lack of knowledge of labor rights, wage differences that only become balanced after the age of 40 and working hours that are difficult to reconcile, especially in sectors such as hospitality and commerce. For Francome,



**Anthony Francome**

AYF (FJA) DIRECTOR

“Politicians must be educated so that they can develop realistic and informed public policies”

“many young people are stuck, accepting low salaries in exchange for overtime,” a situation he defines as “complete precariousness.” The segmentation of work will be done by professional profiles and age groups, and not by sectors, with the aim that “the data are comparable with other studies and can be used in the long term.” As for the budget, 80% will be allocated to field work, and the rest to communication. ●

## SANCTIONING CASES OPENED

# Ubach criticizes the Government for inaction in the face of the increase in irregularities

The Secretary General of the USdA points out the electoral use of current social problems

ALEX MONTERO  
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The Secretary General of the Andorran Trade Union (USdA), Gabriel Ubach, has reacted forcefully to recent data on the increase in sanctioning cases for labor irregularities, published by the Department of Labor Inspection and made public yesterday by the Minister Spokesperson, Guillem Casal, at the press conference following the Council of Ministers. The figures, which reveal a 45% increase in these cases in the first quarter of 2024, have been interpreted by the union representative as the tip of the iceberg.

«There are many more workplace abuses than are detected and reported,» Ubach said for EL PERIÒDIC, criticizing the lack of legal protection for workers. «We have outdated legislation that does not protect workers at all,» he added. According to the union leader, the complaint process is expensive and ineffective. «A person who goes to the court to claim 1,500 euros



The Secretary General of the USdA points out the lack of union representation and the electoral use of social problems.

loses everything in lawyers, attorney and time,» he stressed.

In response to Casal's statements, which opened the door to possible improvements in the legislation on occupational diseases if the Minister of the Presidency, Economy, Labor and Housing, Conxita Marsol, considers it appropriate, Ubach was categorical: «For the Democrat government, nothing is re-

levant, it only matters when the elections come.» In this sense, he criticized what he considers an electoral attitude of the head of government, Xavier Espot. «With fifteen days to go before the elections, he is 'letting his hair down', saying that he is very concerned about housing, quality of life and wages. When the elections are over, all this is in the background», he said.

Ubach has strongly criticized the Executive, stating that «the DA government does not listen to anyone», neither unions nor civil society, and that «they are going their own way». He has also criticized the failure to develop already approved legal aspects, such as the mandatory presence of workers' delegates in companies with more than 20 employees. «How many companies have delegates today in Andorra? You can count them on your fingers and toes», he denounced. ●



**Gabriel Ubach**

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE USdA

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