

PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS

The Youth Forum will expand its membership and budget

The renovation will include an increase in the annual budget of the entity to 80,000 euros

The age range to be a member of the organization will range from 15 to 35 years

DEMOCRATES



► An instant of the signing of the proposed amendment to the FNJA Act.



Oriol Servera
VOCAL OF THE FNJA

«The Forum must make it possible to bring the voice of young people to the institutions to offer real and equal opportunities»

Center for Research in Sociological Studies (CRES). At the event, Oriol Servera, a member of the FNJA's permanent board, said that «the Forum must make it possible to bring the voice of young people to institutions, both national and international, in order to defend their rights and provide real opportunities and egalitarian among all the youth».

At the same time, one of the priorities of the organization is to stimulate the day-to-day activity and the assembly format to adapt it to the profile of the young person in the country, and to guarantee the maximum participation, "of an organization democratic as the Forum should be" Servera recalled. The FNJA's second priority is to enter the European Youth Forum, a platform for international non-governmental youth organizations.

Finally, the councilors who entered the proposal were Ferran Costa from the Liberals, the Democrat Sandra Codina, Carles Sánchez, from the PS and Oliver Alís, from Tercera Via; accompanied by Servera and Mario Giménez of the FNJA. ≡

EL PERIÒDIC
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The Andorran National Youth Forum (FNJA) will change the structure and extend the age limits for young people, from 16 to 29 to 15 to 35. This will increase the number of members from 12,000 to 18,000. These are some of the amendments that have been included in the Bill amending the Law of the National Youth Forum of Andorra presented yesterday to the General Council, with the support of all parliamentary groups and the non-attached councilor, Carine Montaner.

The criterion for reducing the

registration age to 15 is due to the fact that the association wants to have more direct access to school-age people and start creating this useful awareness of the Forum. The range has also been extended to the age of 35, in line with Council of Europe recommendations and in line with the guidelines of the surrounding countries.

Another novelty is the creation of the figure of the director of the FNJA, with the aim of giving more quality to the strategic framework of contact with the institutions; and a technical body to defend clearer statutes and offer a continuity strategy to projects.

The amendment also provides

The Youth Assembly may be held electronically, with the aim of promoting the maximum quorum

for an increase in the annual budget to 80,000 euros. In this way, taking into account that the body is financed through the general budgets of the State and these are equivalent to the figure resulting from multiplying by 4.5 the total number of young residents or nationals (approximately 18,000) will be expanded its budget allocation.

In addition, the possibility has been enabled that the celebration of the Youth Assembly can be carried out electronically, with the aim of favoring the maximum quorum, taking into account that a large part of the group does not live in Andorra and is studying abroad. The platform is still under development, which is expected to be used for the first time in the first assembly for the passage of the law.

The restructuring process has included young people, former members of the forum, associations, both national and communal youth services, institutions working with young people, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the

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Interview ▶ The new president of Unicef Andorra, Georgia Pont.

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«I would like to humanize the organization more and give it a name, a face and a smile»

GEÒRGIA PONT President of Unicef Andorra

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
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Georgia Pont is the new head of Unicef Andorra. She joined the NGO in 2014 and has held the vice presidency since 2018. She is currently replacing Laura Alvarez as president.

–Could you assess your entry into Unicef Andorra and its evolution, which has led you to become president of the organization?

–I started by supporting the work team of one of the NGO's commissions around fundraising, and also with all kinds of help from Unicef; then I became part of the finance committee, because my competencies added up in this area; and then I joined the board. In short, everything has followed a natural and gradual course.

–Do you think that your previous experience has helped you?

–Obviously it adds up, but the most important thing is that the members of the board have not necessarily been involved in volunteering, as they are people who have a lot of sensitivity. I think this is something you have or haven't, you have to want to give of your person to do a good deed, and I think it's an attribute that the whole board shares.

–What have you learned from Laura Alvarez and which of her values and projects will be reflected and / or will continue to be carried out in your presidency?

–The values of the board and the presidents are always the same: to respect the rights of our children, in Andorra and abroad, worldwide. One of the things that Laura has done with her career as president is that she wanted to rejuvenate the board, because it is true that there were not many young people, and not only did she succeed, but she also opted for my person for the presidency and also for the vice presidency of people who are the youngest on the board. For her, it was very important to leave this legacy.

–As it was announced when you entered the presidency, your goal is to put the person back at the center of the entity's action. How will you do it?

–I get the impression that when we talk about projects we see the results very far, and obviously we talk and debate about the needs that need to be solved, but usually we don't go into specifying what we will help, who we will help, who will benefit ... And I think that, in this sense, the human factor must be put back at the center of volunteering and this donation, specifically talking about people and real actions of the Andorran committee in situ in the projects being carried

out across all countries.

–So far, what has been the focus of Unicef Andorra?

–The center of action of the entity is always the projects and programs that are carried out, what happens is that the approach can be adapted. Personally, as I mentioned earlier, I would like to adapt it to humanize the programs a little more and make them more ours, to explain them more and go further with the detail of putting a name, an identity, a face, a smile on this project, which we may have been closing for four years, which sometimes seems very far away, but in this way you further mimic the initiative.

–What do you think are the main challenges facing Unicef Andorra?

–One of the lines of action that we have not touched on in previous years and which is a novelty is climate change, specifically with a project in Bangladesh, and we want to work with the Government, companies and communities to increase access drinking water and sanitation, with the aim of facilitating resources in this context of environmental degradation due to climate change. Bangladesh, as a low-lying country, has one of the largest river networks in the world, and is highly vulnerable to climate change. According to the Unicef Child Climate Risk Index, Bangladesh faces the highest environmental risks in the world. One in three children, almost 20 million children in total, are victims of this extreme climate, floods, rising sea levels; and this leads to drifting situations where children are unhealthy and have to move to slums, where their future prospects are not viable, which encourages child labor, child marriage and child trafficking.

–In this sense, in which direction will the new lines of action of Unicef Andorra be directed?

–The lines of action will be on these international projects that we always work with, and we will continue with our vaccination plans. This week, from April 24 to 30, we commemorated Vaccination Week, thanks to Unicef providing vaccines that reach almost half of the world's children. Thus, the organization is one of the most important vaccinators, with more than 2.35 billion doses distributed. Then, in Afghanistan, we want to address gender equality, because it is one of the most challenging countries in the world for women and girls, ranking 69th in the United Nations Gender Inequality Index. Therefore, we think that this is an issue that needs to be supported, especially when statistics also show that 80% of Afghan women and girls are abused throughout their lives, especially now that this change has taken



▶ The new president of Unicef Andorra, Georgia Pont.

place few months as far as the Taliban government is concerned.

–In this line, how far do your competencies go abroad?

–From the moment we accept or decide to deal with a project, our competence is to finance and find donations in order to be able to contribute concrete aid funds. Our capabilities are limited here, although we are in direct contact with program partners in the countries where we make these donations. Therefore, on a regular basis, they inform us of the progress of the

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se donations made from Andorra, where they are destined, and they do a bit of a systematic reporting function to see how the program is progressing and the situation in the country. Therefore, there is an important link.

–What work does Unicef Andorra do to ensure equality in its humanitarian and development work?

–The gender perspective is a transversal axis in all our projects, both in Andorra and abroad. Women and girls are the main victims of culturally unjustified violence by men's physical strength, women's submissive relationships, and the idea of owning the property of weak people. We therefore support the Government in its awareness campaigns to end violence against women and girls, and give visibility to the telephone number 175 of the Child and Youth Protection Service in the country.

–How have audiences changed their awareness and context, and how should Unicef adapt?

–Audiences are changing because the world is being digitized. I would say that the most radical change in the organization with digitization

and the post-pandemic has been to adapt to new networks, and also to have a different discourse, because there is a new profile of donor, beneficiary and interlocutor, often younger, and we are making an effort in that regard. One of the ideas that has been put on the table is to create a team of certified volunteers to have young people by our side to help us adapt philanthropic discourse with a different target profile, because maybe words or speeches that we use from Unicef International are not well suited to the profile we play on social media.

–Unicef Andorra also works to protect the rights of children in developed countries and here. How do you do it?

–In Andorra we work on the basis of our agreements, such as the right to participate with the Child-Friendly Parishes and the Children's Council, of which it should be noted that Andorra is the only country in the world where all the municipalities have signed an agreement with the Child-Friendly Parishes. On the other hand, we also guarantee the right to receive better health care for the protection of mental health, where we have an agreement with the Official College of Psychologists of Andorra (Copsia); also the right to healthy nutrition, because according to the latest observatory of childhood in relation to health indicators, overweight is monitored annually, and in the 2019-2020 academic year 5.7% of middle school students with a significant increase in weight, and we do this with the agreement we have with the Association of Dietitians and Nutritionists of Andorra (CDNA). These are, in particular, the agreements we have in the country and with which we work in this regard.

–What is Unicef's role in integrating Ukrainian refugee children into the country and what is being done to ensure their well-being?

–Unicef's competencies are not specifically to bring children and people into the country, as this is a government task. However, we can provide support through the care of lawyers and psychologists with families who may be here, and especially when asked for help.

–A dinner will be held soon to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the organization. What will be done?

–I appreciate you asking me this question because it is very important for us. This was a gala we wanted to hold at the end of last year, but it was not possible due to the pandemic. What we want is to give transparency to the institution through this event to exemplify what we do in the country in a playful and social way. ≡