



SOCIETY

78% of the population, in favor of foreigners voting in municipal elections

Almost 85% of Andorrans consider that immigration is positive for the Principality

80% of non-residents indicate that the price of housing is worse compared to their country of origin

POL FORCADA QUEVEDO
SANT JULIA DE LÒRIA
@PeriodicAND

77.8% of the Andorran population agree that people without nationality can vote in municipal elections, while 18.3% are against it. This is what emerges from a study that the Sociology area of Andorra Research and Innovation (AR+I) has carried out during 2022 on 786 people of legal age, and which was presented to the media last Tuesday. These are very similar figures to previous studies, since in 2007 76.8% were in favor and 18.3% - the same percentage - disagreed, while in 2002 79.5% they agreed and 16.9% did not.

Likewise, the study also shows that in the case of the general elections, the number of nationals in favor of immigrants being able to vote is reduced to 56.3%, a figure that has been decreasing over the years because in 2007 it was 57.5% and in 2002 61.7%. In this sense, the percentage in disagreement has been increasing; this year the figure has risen to 38.5%, in 2007 it was 34.7% and in 2002 32.6%.

On the other hand, the coordinator and the researcher of the area of sociology of AR+I, Joan Micó and Pepita Batalla, in charge of the presentation, commented that the perception of Andorrans towards the contribution of the non-nationalized is positive. Firstly, because 95.1% consider that immigrants have made the economic development of the Principality possible, a figure that increases by 6% compared to 2019. 95.4% also consider that foreigners are necessary for the functioning of the economy, increasing by 6.7% compared to 2019. Another data that also grows compared to 2019 (66.2%) is that the nationals do not see non-Andorrans as labor competition, since 73.1% consider



► The presentation of the study on immigration to Andorra carried out during 2022 by the AR+I Sociology group.

The number of nationals in favor of immigrants voting in the general elections is reduced to 56.3%

that they occupy jobs that they do not want. Likewise, another figure that increases, reaching 45.1%, is the belief that the increase in immigrants will cause the Principality to lose the Catalan language.

However, the AR+I study indicates that almost 85% of Andorrans, specifically 84.8%, consider that immigration to Andorra is positive, compared to 5.9% who consider the opposite. The positive figure,

it should be noted, has increased since 2013, when it was 73.7%, passing by 81% in 2019. Asked if immigrants who arrive in the Principality can obtain nationality more easily, a 54.1% of Andorrans agree, while 39% do not.

AR+I also asked the population for stereotypes. In relation to this, 13.8% indicated that it was necessary to limit the entry of foreigners, mainly from the Maghreb (43.5%),

the figures

45.2% of immigrants feel very integrated in Andorran society, and 70% consider it closed.

54.1% of Andorrans agree that foreigners can obtain nationality more easily

95.4% of nationals consider that non-Andorrans are necessary for the functioning of the economy

Latin Americans (22.5%) and from Eastern Europe (20.4%). This aspect, they mentioned during the press conference, «indicates that there are certain prejudices and stereotypes» towards certain nationalities or places of origin. Of course, the sympathy of nationals towards people from different countries or regions of the world has increased in all cases, demonstrating that the pyramid of cultural prestige exists in the country.

Lastly, and from the point of view of foreigners, 79.9% stated that the price of housing in Andorra is worse compared to their place of origin. It should be noted, however, that in terms of public safety, the natural environment and the quality of life, more than 75% indicate that the situation of the Principality is better compared to their country of origin. In addition, 70.1% consider that Andorran society is closed, but the number of immigrants who feel very integrated has increased compared to 2002, from 29.1% to 45.2%. ≡

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

POLITICS

Vives highlights the challenge of guaranteeing the right to housing

Last Tuesday, the Christmas meeting was held between the episcopal co-prince and the Andorran representatives

MARIA LOZANO
LA SEU D'URGELL
@PeriodicAND

The episcopal co-prince and archbishop of Urgell Joan-Enric Vives, received last Tuesday at noon at the Episcopal Palace of La Seu d'Urgell during the Christmas reception to the authorities and the people of Andorra.

The trustee general, Carles Ensenyat, the deputy trustee, Sandra Codina, the head of government, Xavier Espot, attended, accompanied by several ministers and consuls from the seven parishes of the Principality, as well as representatives of the parliamentary groups and the Spanish ambassador to Andorra, Carlos Pérez-Desoy, among others.

Thus, Vives emphasized that the Christmas holidays are an occasion «to renew and strengthen the ties that unite us to our families and our institutions», remarking that «the constitutional political system is configured in accordance with democratic principles and protects the rights of citizens».

In this sense, the co-prince spoke on the subject of housing: «It is the great challenge to guarantee all citizens and residents this right, and it must be maintained as a true priority of all public institutions». In this sense, Espot emphasized that «everyone must exercise responsibility and generosity; the owners must be aware that they have a social function». The president of the Concòrdia parliamentary group, Cerni Escalé, pointed out that «the capital gains tax must be higher than real estate speculation», adding that «it is incompre-



► The episcopal co-prince, Joan-Enric Vives, during his traditional speech during the Christmas reception.

The episcopal co-prince spoke on three topics: the agreement with the EU, housing and education

hensible that there are empty flats in the country».

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EU// One of the other topics discussed was the Association Agreement with the EU. Vives argued that «I celebrate the conclusion of the Agreement negotiations with the EU, which have been successfully concluded in a unique and unrepeatable political moment». The head of government has thanked for their support, stressing that now is the time «to do a lot of pedagogy to bring the benefits of the agreement

to the public». On the other hand, Escalé explained that «we all share the importance that Europe has, the importance of multilateral relations», but he added that «the day to hold a debate on the association agreement will be another». The president of the Democratic parliamentary group, Jordi Jordana, explained that «the decision on whether to be a third or associated state has consequences on one side or the other».

EDUCATION// Lastly, the co-prince emphasized the importance of edu-



JOAN-ENRIC VIVES
EPISCOPAL CO-PRINCE

«The political system is configured in accordance with democratic principles, and protects the rights of citizens»

XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

«Everyone must exercise responsibility; the owners have a social function»

CERNI ESCALÉ
PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF CONCÒRDIA

«The capital gains tax must be higher than real estate speculation [...] It is incomprehensible that there are empty flats»

cation, calling for the need to look after educational institutions to help children and young people to «grow as people and as citizens, love life, work for common good in the knowledge and love of their country, educate them in freedom», adding the importance of «promoting the critical spirit to all citizens».

The episcopal co-prince, Joan-Enric Vives and the head of government, Xavier Espot. ≡



► The episcopal co-prince, Joan-Enric Vives and the head of government, Xavier Espot.

Espot does not want to leave part of the population neglected in the salary field

M.L.
LA SEU D'URGELL

The Head of Government, Xavier Espot, remarked last Tuesday that «it is clear that we will not leave unattended a substantial part of the population that is legitimately demanding that their wages be increased». In the framework of the Christmas reception of the Episcopal Coprincipal, Joan-Enric Vives at La Seu d'Urgell, Espot emphasized that a decision will be taken «in the framework of a leisurely debate in the area of the Executive and the parliamentary groups».

Therefore, despite the fact that

they had hoped to reach an agreement, it will be the Government that will have to decide how wages will be revalued next year. That's why Espot explained where the negotiations between employers and unions were at, and that «it will be necessary to see what each of the parties is asking for in order to take into account the viability of the business fabric», while remembering that there must be into account «the people most in need of protection», which are the workers, especially those with the lowest wages.

In relation to this issue, the president of the parliamentary group

of Concòrdia, Cerni Escalé, emphasized that the revaluation of wages and thirteenth pay «must be a discussion that must be done jointly», and added that a thirteenth pay «represents the approximate increase in salaries of 8%, in addition to the CPI». In addition, he argued that «it is necessary to guarantee that living conditions are decent in Andorra, at a time when prices are very high».

Finally, the president of the Democrats' parliamentary group, Jordi Jordana, emphasized that «it is a shame that there is no agreement». ≡