



OBSERVATORY

# 80% of Andorra's citizens are concerned about housing

Issues such as wages, the expensive standard of living or traffic are other current concerns

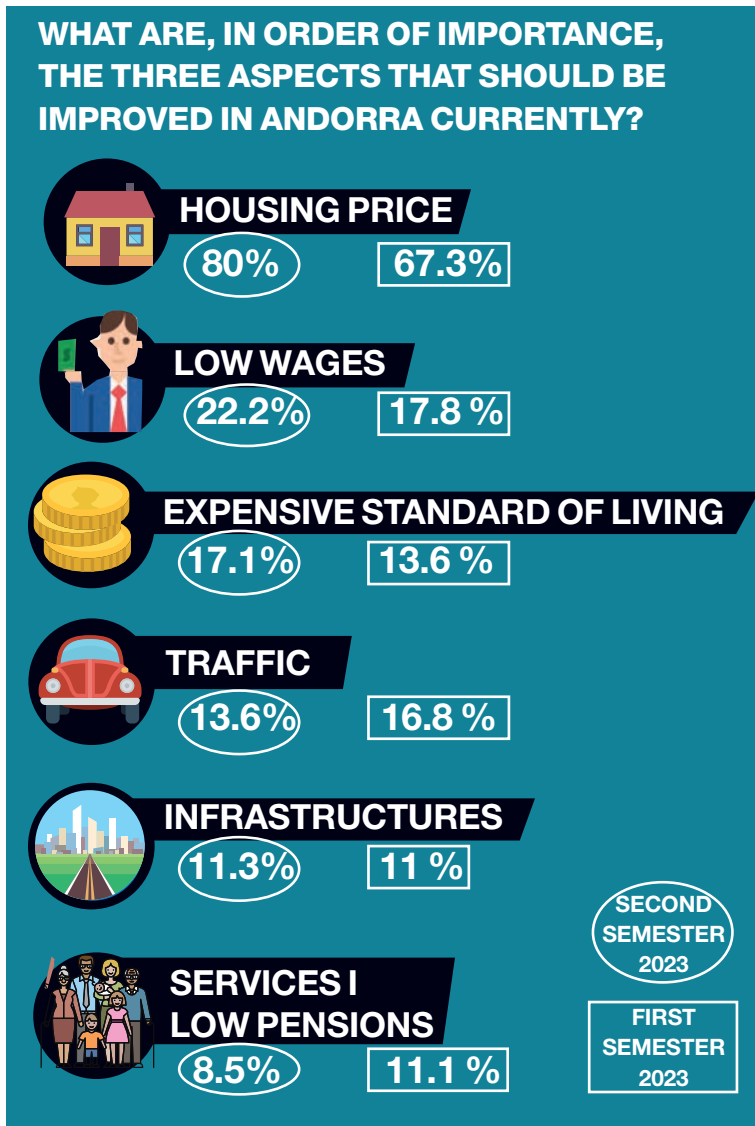
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Housing continues to be the primary concern for the citizens of Andorra, as can be seen from the data provided by the second 2023 Observatory of Andorra Research + Innovation. According to this, 80% of citizens say that this is the main concern, while in the first semester of the same year it was only for 67%. The figure includes more women than men, aged between 40 and 64, and in work sectors such as trade, hospitality or construction. The issue of housing is followed by wages (22.2%), the currently expensive standard of living (17.1%) and traffic (13.6%).

Another of the questions launched by the Observatory has been the one referring to the personal impact of each of the respondents. The price of housing once again becomes the first of these affects, with 39.6%. The established profile is between the ages of 18 and 21, and mostly with qualified jobs (61%). Expensive living standards and wages are again close behind, although with a more than considerable difference, at 7.2% and 6.5%, respectively.

The reason why the problem of housing affects citizens so directly is very clear, since almost half of the respondents (49.9%) affirm that it is caused by such expensive rents, excessive prices in relation to the salary, the difficulties in paying the rent and the fact of allocating most of the income only to the property. «The survey coincided with the demonstrations for decent housing and it may be that this movement has made the population more aware» indicated the coordinator of the AR+I Sociology area, Joan Micó.

Continuing within the issue that has encompassed practically the en-



**49.9% of respondents** are affected by such expensive rents or excessive prices in relation to wages

tire Observatory, 60.5% of the respondents have affirmed that they currently reside in a rented apartment, while 24.3% are in a property already paid for and 12.6% continue to pay the mortgage. Focusing only on citizens with Andorran nationality, 48% live in a rented house, 15% have a flat already paid for and 27% still have a mortgage. Even so, discounting supplies (water, electricity and heating) and compared to the second half of 2022, the average of a flat for rent in 2023 was 879,062

euros, while the previous year it was 779,101 euros. With regard to property flats, we are talking about 1,245,589 euros this last semester and 1,004,766 euros for 2022.

The last two questions regarding housing have been related to the percentage of monthly income intended to pay for it and the active search for the apartment in question. Regarding the first, 41.1% of respondents allocate between 30% and 49%, while 23.4% register less than 30% and 22.2% do so between

50% and more. The evolution with respect to 2022 is quite noticeable within the first group, going from 36.7% to the 41.1% mentioned above (an increase of 4.4%).

Finally, 63% of respondents say they do not want to change their property today, while 20.6% express the desire to do so, but cannot. The reasons for this search are, mainly, finding a more economical home (24.2%), being able to become independent (14.3%) and needing a bigger flat (11.7%).



►► The coordinator of the AR+I Sociology area, Joan Micó, in the presentation of the second Observatory of 2023.

## Support for the Association Agreement with the European Union falls

Only 29.6% say they agree with the current negotiations

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The study of the Association Agreement with the European Union was one of the other backbones of the second Observatory of 2023 promoted by Andorra Research + Innovati-

on. In it, 29.6% believe that an agreement should be negotiated like the one that is currently being made, while 29.7% postulate to maintain the status that has existed so far in Andorra. In both cases, a notable change is perceived in the comparative percentage evolution with 2022. In this exercise, 42.5% affirmed that they agree with the current negotiations, now giving a decrease to 30.8%. On the other side

of the scale is the fact of continuing with the current status, increasing from 25.3% to 37%.

Even so, it should be noted that one of the questions raised by the AR+I referred to the public's knowledge of this, affirming that 28.5% of respondents were not aware of the negotiations that are taking place today or not having sufficient information about the management carried out by the Go-

vernment.

More demand for citizen participation/ The report has also given space to citizens' interest in participating in decision-making on the country's main issues. So, 60.8% believe that public opinion is very important, while 13.9% say the opposite. Along the same lines, 69.3% do believe that there is an interest on the part of the people in participating in decisions, although 58.3% mention that the opinions are not taken into account by the administrations. In addition, 47.6% affirm that they do not have sufficient mechanisms to make their voice heard and to deliver the proposals in question.



►► Luca Beccari and Xavier Espot



HEALTH

# The electronic prescription could be a reality towards the summer

Mas announces that the development of the Hospital expansion plan will take place in 2025

The minister presented the roadmap of the National Pact for the quality and efficiency of the system

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The electronic prescription could be a reality towards the summer. This is what the Minister of Health, Helena Mas, explained last Thursday, during the appearance before the media to explain the strategic lines and the roadmap of the National Pact for the quality, efficiency and sustainability of the health system, which although it does not have a fixed date is expected to be ready in a couple of months. The minister explained that «we want to have the best health in the next four years», and for this reason they are working together with more than 50 representatives of the health sector and parliamentary groups: «We have in front of us the possibility of

**The aim is to respond** to the challenges facing the healthcare system, such as ageing

working with all the actors involved jointly to decide the courses of action that guarantee that our health system continues to be of quality, efficient and sustainable». Mas also pointed out that they do it through the National Pact because the Government considers that «decisions about health go beyond the political sphere».

The Pact was created to deal with the challenges in the Andorran healthcare system, such as the progressive aging of the population, the increase in chronic diseases, the cost of new treatments and the new technologies available, mental health, and finally efficiency when making investments and spending on health.

To follow this line, the Ministry has put on the table a series of surveys, assessment processes on the state of health in the country and the dissemination of healthy lifestyle habits, but not only physically, but also mental and addictions,



► The Minister of Health, Helena Mas, during the presentation of the National Pact roadmap.



**HELENA MAS**  
MINISTER OF HEALTH

«We must work with all the actors involved to decide the courses of action that guarantee our health system»

«We have budgeted for the development of the functional plan for the Hospital annex, planned for 2025»

sexual and reproductive and healthy aging. In this way, it will be possible to analyze the current situation of society and see which shortcomings and needs reside. The head

of Health also announced that the Pact foresees the review and update of the CASS service portfolio, as well as the reinforcement of primary care through actions such as the adap-

tation of the Shared Clinical History and the improvement of hospital care, and pointed out that they have budgeted for the development of the functional plan for the expansion of Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell, planned for 2025.

The Pact also includes five new legislative texts such as the creation of the Pharmaceutical Sector Regulation Law, the Implementation Law of the Framework Convention against Tobacco, the Health and Oncological Oblivion Law, the Medicines Law and a new text that regulates the functioning of the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS).

**ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTION** // The Minister of Health explained that they have already developed a catalog

of medicines that has already been tested in some pharmacies, and that now it will be necessary to start with the creation of the software and «see the evolution and improvements», pointed out Mas, adding that it is a priority for the Ministry of Health and that «hopefully it will be towards summer».

**RADIOTHERAPY UNIT** // On the other hand, and asked again about the situation of radiotherapy in Andorra, the minister insisted that it is not profitable to locate equipment of this nature in the country due to the lack of professionals and people in need. However, the Executive does not rule out being able to do it in a much closer city in the country so that patients do not have to travel three hours to Barcelona or France to receive the treatment. However, she recalled that from the Government they are providing psychological and emotional support, both to patients and families, and that accommodation, diets and travel are facilitated.

**MENTAL HEALTH** // The head of Health also highlighted that when she arrived at the ministry in 2019, «the comprehensive mental health plan was already a priority of that legislature». And that although the Covid-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of mental health, it was already developing beforehand. But, therefore, she assured that during this legislature mental health will continue to be a priority and «it is not because the pandemic has put it on the table, but because it is necessary to make this change of attention in mental health».

**TRANSPLANTS** // Finally, Mas emphasized that one of the priorities of the mandate is to work on transplants and the donation of organs and tissues, and specifically cornea donation, which will be effective in the coming months, once they have the European regulation: «We have trained professionals, we have all the members of this cornea donation project ready, but we lack the agreement», detailed the minister. ≡

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