



Erasmus+

# Small States Conflict Resolution (CR)

Andorra



UNIVERSITAT  
D'ANDORRA

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**Historical Background:** Andorra is born as a conflict resolution and has survived till today thanks to the neutrality, avoidance of conflicts and conservatism but...



*Photo: viurealspirineus.com*

...social structure was strictly unequal and the economy was poor...

**FOCS: MEMBERS OF RICH HOUSES WHO HAD POLITICAL POWER AND RIGHTS.**



*Photo: Casa Rull, XVII Century*

**CASALERS: THE REST NOR POLITICAL NEITHER ECONOMICAL RIGHTS.**



*Photo: Can Gandina, 1967, Arxiu Nacional d'Andorra*



...inequalities were a breeding ground for popular revolts...



1881



1933 foreign workers from FHASA

*Photo: Arxiu Nacional d'Andorra (ANA)*

# ...Coprinces intervened...

*Síndic General* Francesc Cairat.

Meeting with French  
Gendarmes send by the  
French *Coprince* for the  
revolution of 1933.



Photo: Fons Daniela Sirés, ANA



# Historical Background: some topics confronted Spain and France and Andorra with Spain or France: The conflict of the radios

## Radio Andorra



Photo: stoa.es

## Sud Radio



Photo: Diari de la Neu

# The evolution of the right to vote

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<b>Before 1866</b>	<b>1866</b>	<b>1933</b>	<b>1970</b>
Only the Prohoms (Heads of the rich houses)	All the heads of the houses	Universal manhood suffrage	Universal Suffrage
	Nova Reforma revolution	1933 Revolution	

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# Major current conflict & issues: National political conflicts

- 1) **National identity** and migration policy: access to the Andorran nationality and double or multiple nationalities. Catalan as the official language. Andorran identity. Quotas. Open views against the need for more national protection.
- 2) The maintenance of **Coprincipality**.
- 3) Public **finance sustainability**. Recent establishment of taxes. Debates around the level and nature of taxes. Population aging and pensions. The adequate level of public debt.
  - 1) 2012: *Corporate Tax*
  - 2) 2015: *Income tax*
- 4) The development of the **welfare state and the living conditions** : Debates between a more individualistic approach of social protection and the need for more social protection by the state. Unemployment benefits. **Regulation of the minimum wage and the dismissal**.
- 5) **Housing**. The high cost of housing due to real state investment, wealthy residents, end of bank secrecy, tourism activities and the lack of space. Citizens and workers with low income have difficult access to housing.



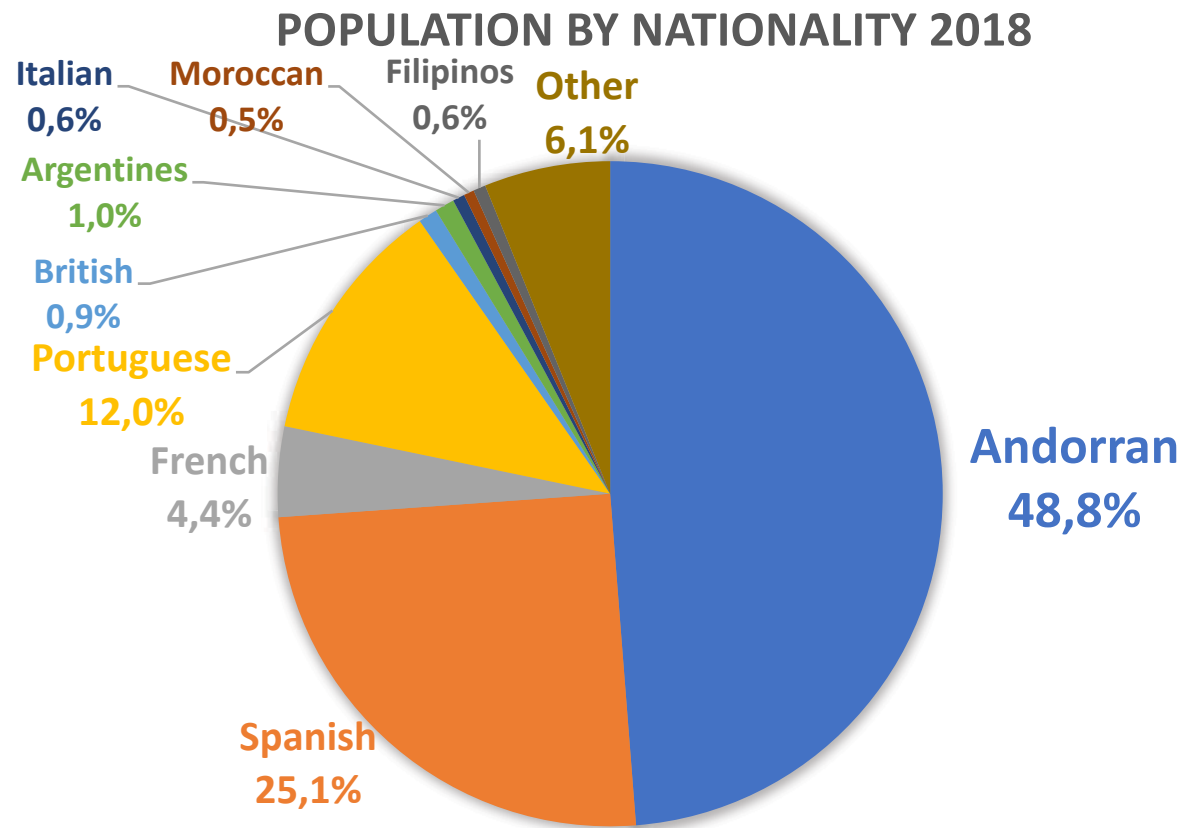
# Major current conflict & issues: National political conflicts

- 6) **Environmental protection:** Landscape and the environment is a keystone for the Andorran economy. Urbanism policy. The protection of cultural and natural heritage against individual profits.
- 7) **The Political Power Structure:**
  - 1) Powers of regional bodies and their political representation in the parliament: The role and attributions of regions (Parròquies). Conflict between a more “municipality” approach and the “Parròquia” as a tradition institution of political power as a *check and balance*.
  - 2) Importance of **intermediate political bodies:** political parties and individual participation in elections.
  - 3) Electoral system: majority and stability VS representativeness.
  - 4) Right to vote of non Andorran residents in the local elections.
  - 5) Regulation of Labor union, collective negotiation and the right to strike.
- 8) **Individual freedoms against traditions:** The right to abortion and the veto of Episcopal *Coprince* to maintain *Coprincipality*. Same sex marriage.
- 9) **Foster Casinos and protection of traditional economical sectors** (Tabaco, tourism and real state) or foster a more diversified and open economy.

# Major current conflict & issues: International political conflicts

- 1) **Customs and trade:** Tabaco smuggling. For instance, the tabaco crisis between Andorra and Spain 1998.
- 2) **Banking and the exchange of information.** Sarkozy Crisis 2009, OCDE and EU lists, BPA crisis, Jordi Pujol, former president of Catalonia bank accounts in Andorra.
- 3) **Tax residency.** Some foreign celebrities have the residence in Andorra because quality of life and low income taxes. Differences of interpretation between national tax authorities on what determines tax residency.
- 4) **Access to Andorra and transport infrastructure.** Andorra could only be reached by road. The opening of the Airport of Andorra in La Seu d'Urgell (Spain). French authorities blocking road access to Andorra because of geological or climate dangers.
- 5) **Climate change.**
- 6) **Lack of raw materials.** Economical dependency.
- 7) **Dependency on Spanish/French economy.**

# Major current conflict & issues: political inequalities



Today more than 100 **nationalities** live peacefully in a country of 76.177 inhabitants.

Political debates around **access to nationality**, multiple nationalities and national identity.

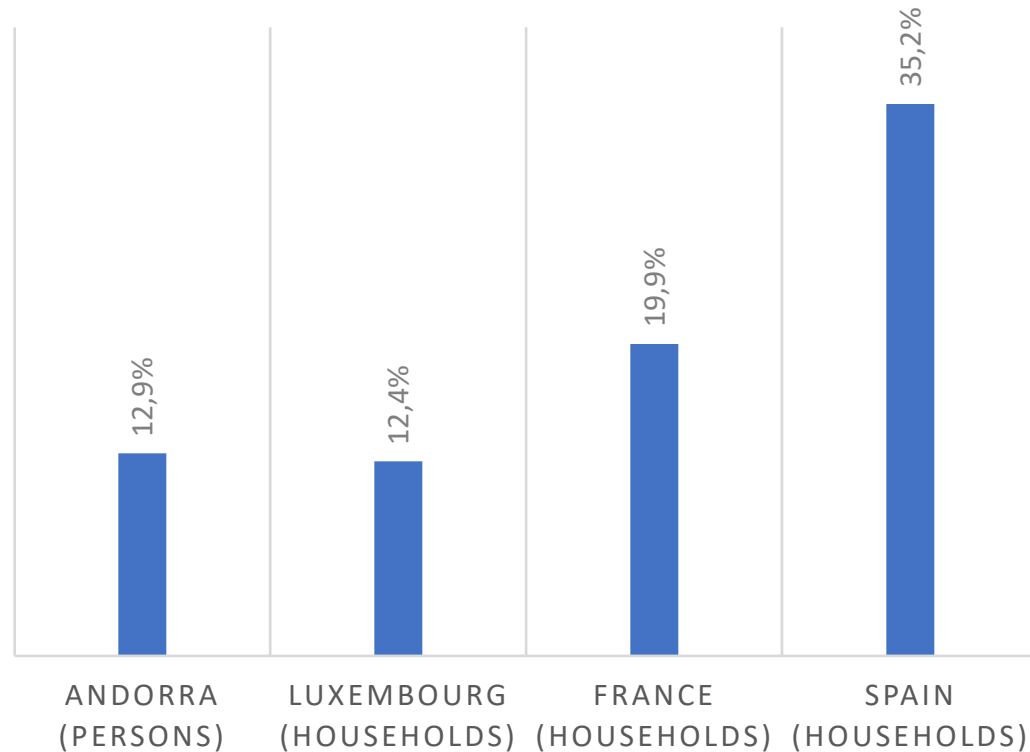
Only Andorrans have the **right to vote** and be elected.

20 years of residence to become Andorran and **multiple nationalities are forbidden** by the Constitution.



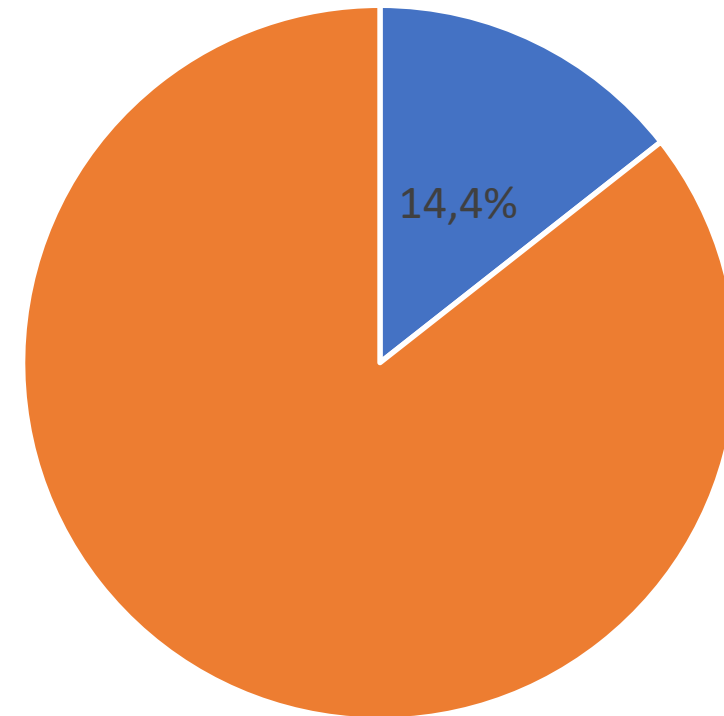
# Major current conflict & issues: economical inequalities

## Making ends meet with difficulty and great difficulty (2015)



Data: CRES and EUROSTAT

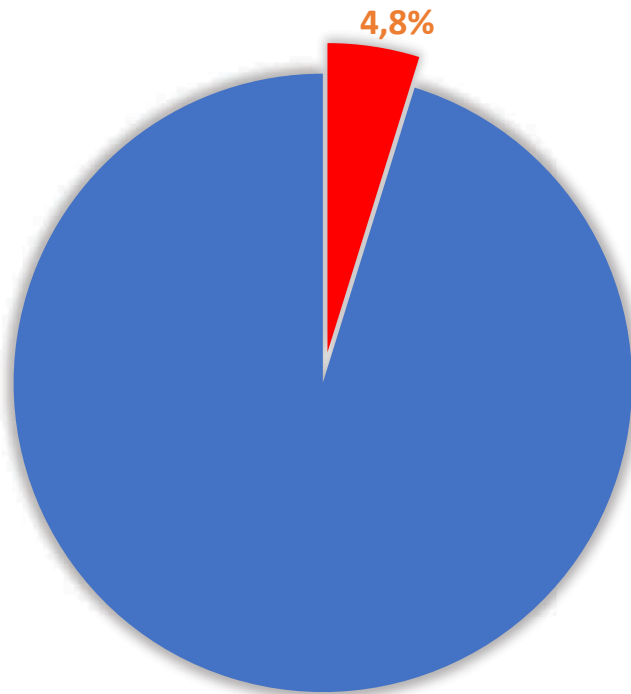
## Persons at-risk-of-poverty: Share of people with a disposable income below the 60 % of the national median. (2017)



Data: CRES and estadistica.ad

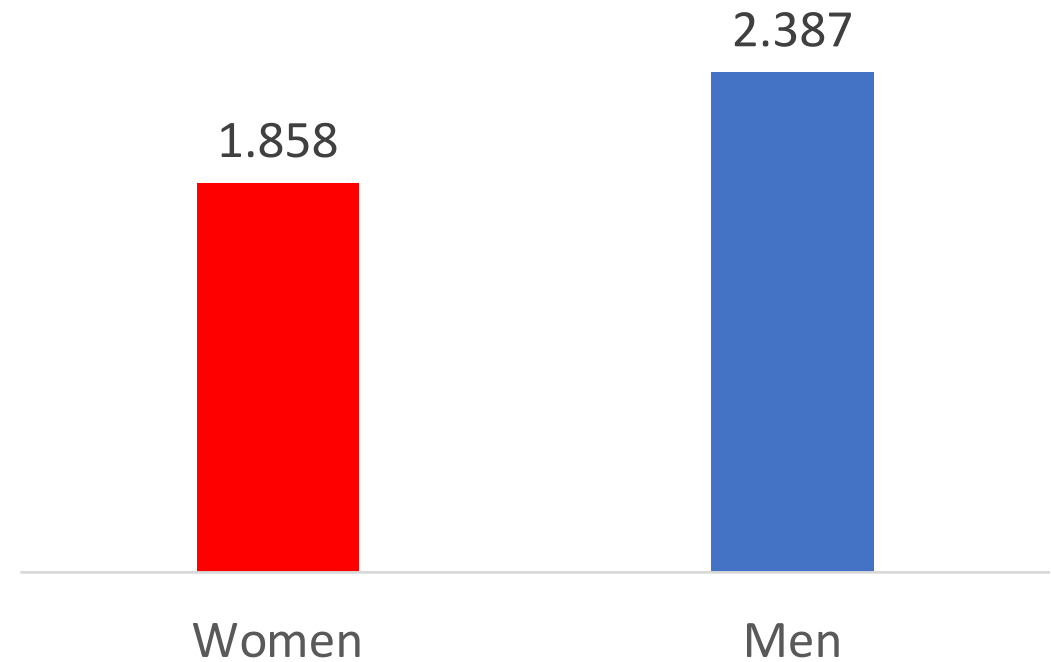
# Major current conflict & issues: gender inequalities

**Proportion of women who have declared they suffered domestic violence during the last year(2008)**



Data: CRES

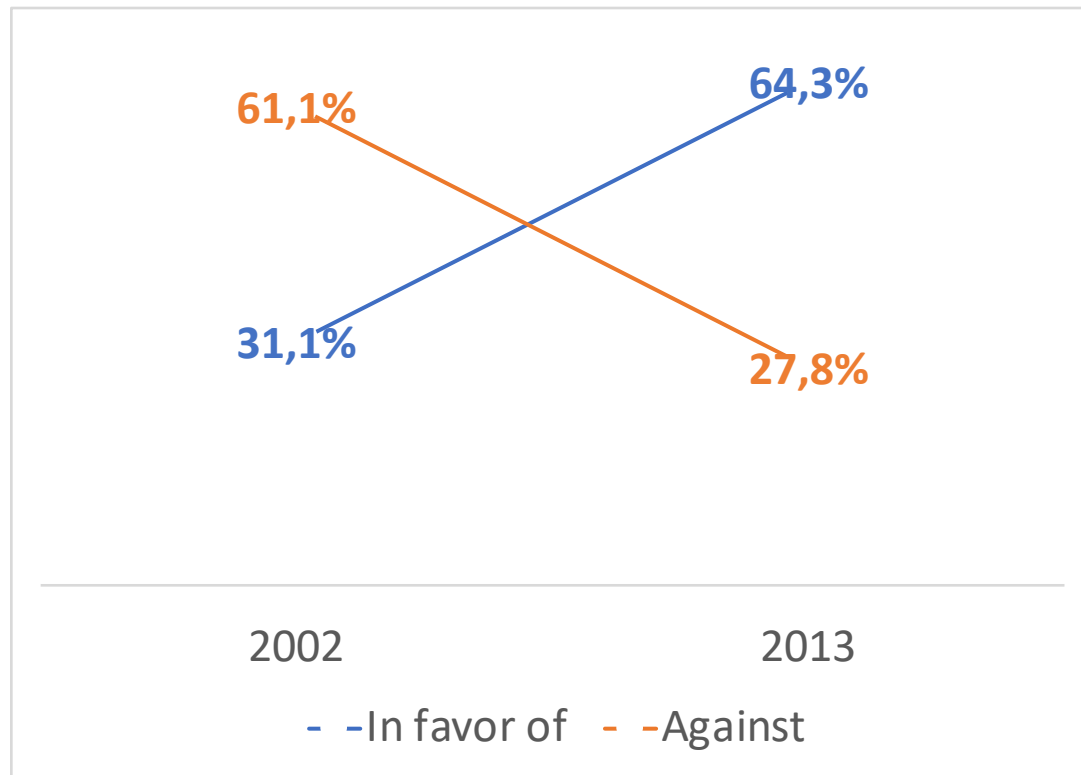
**Average wage by sex in Euros (2018)**



Data: CRES

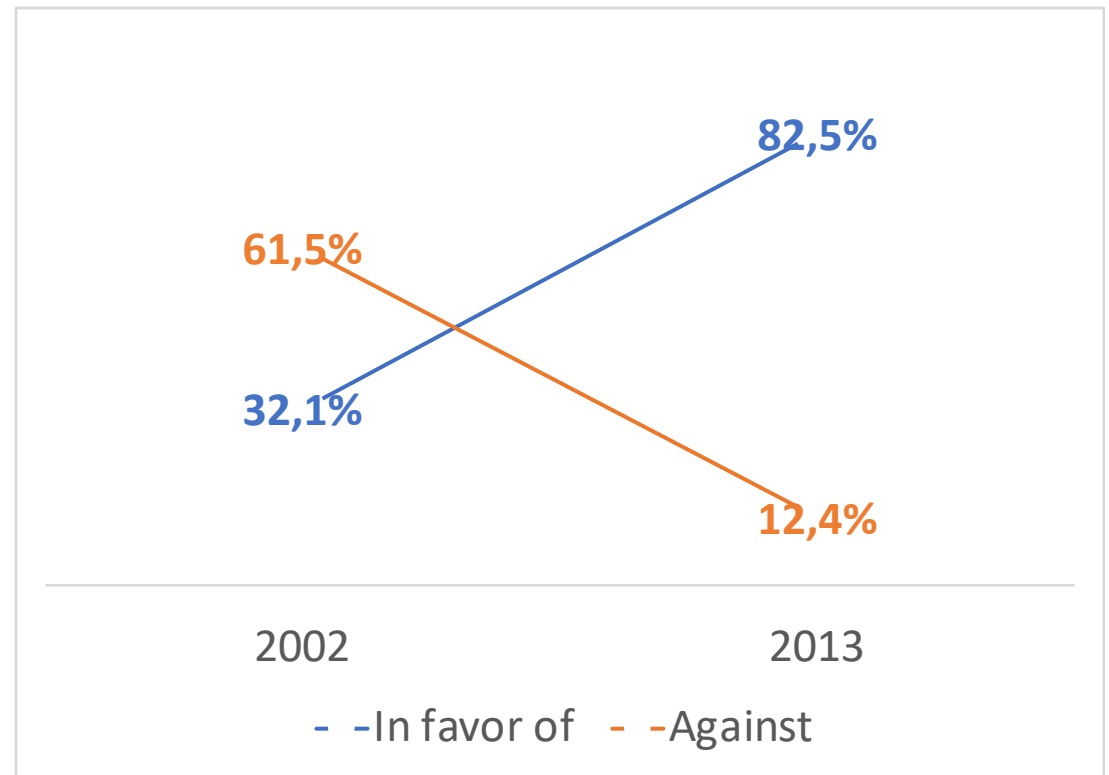
# Major current conflict & issues: a more informal approach to political participation

## Right to strike



Data: CRES Observatori

## Right to demonstrate



Data: CRES Observatori



# Major current conflict & issues: a more informal approach to political participation



# Institutional mechanisms within your country:

Proximity between citizens and politicians. Andorra has a more individualistic, informal and private approach to conflict resolutions and political participation.

Independent judicial system.

Recently established a mediation system within the judicial system as a previous voluntary step. University of Andorra has a mediation training program.

Individuals could file Constitutional complaint to the Constitutional Court.

Andorra is member of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

*Raonador del ciutadà* (ombudsmen).

# Small States & CR: Challenges & Learning

Andorra as a mediator of conflicts in international bodies.

Andorra has a parliamentary democracy and a peaceful live, but there is a big proportion of residents without right to vote and rising economical inequalities.

The society and the economy has lost the traditional equilibrium between the Spanish and French influence in Andorra. Today there are more Spanish influence.



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