**Gipuzkoa will have a pioneering residence that will house housing with care for 127 elderly people.**

*The project, located in Usurbil, is promoted by Matia, co-financed by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, and is expected to open by the end of 2022.*

The new residence that Matia is developing in Usurbil, in collaboration with the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa and the Town Council of the town, will be up and running by the end of 2022. It is a "pioneering and innovative" project, which began its construction in June 2020, and which will house 110 homes for 127 elderly people, "an example of where the model of care in Gipuzkoa is evolving", based on reduced living units that favor the autonomy and personalized attention of the residents. This was explained by the deputy general of Gipuzkoa, Markel Olano, during a visit this morning to the construction site of the new center, where he was accompanied by the deputy of Social Policies Maite Peña, the mayor of Usurbil Agurtzane Solaberrieta, the president of the Board of Trustees of Matia Mari Carmen Garmendia, the general director of Matia Gerardo Amunarriz, and part of his team.

 This new center recovers the concept of housing as a living space in any of its formulas, generating a home-like atmosphere. "Rooms are replaced by small dwellings with integrated care, in a connected environment, open to the community and where the person is placed at the center of all activity." Olano stressed that "people, their welfare, autonomy and quality of care are the central axis on which social policies in Gipuzkoa are based". He added that this project contributes to the transformation of the care model that has been developed in recent years in the territory, "from innovation, personalization and connection with the community", as well as in the collaboration between institutions and entities of the third social sector, one of the main features of the Gipuzkoa model of social policies.

 The center will have a total of 127 places for dependent elderly people, in a total of 110 homes with integrated care, 93 of them individual and 17 doubles for couples or family members. In addition, the homes will be grouped into 7 cohabitation units, each consisting of 18 people. These are larger spaces, between 30 and 38 m2, and will have a small kitchen, living room, bedroom and bathroom, all of which can be customized and furnished by each resident, thus promoting a more homelike environment. The Usurbil center, in addition to the care homes, will have two psychogeriatric units, with 15 beds each, and a day center with 40 beds.

This is the first new construction project of its kind in the whole of Spain, "with a huge innovative approach", with a surface area of 12,017 m2 and requiring a total investment of 20.7 million euros, of which 6.4 million euros have been financed by the Provincial Council, through the collaboration agreement signed between the two entities (2.8), and European funds from the Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan managed by the Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa (3.6).

Local care ecosystem in Usurbil

This new center will be located in the urban nucleus of Usurbil, in Kalezar Auzoa, and in addition to the housing and the day center, it will have services that will be open to all citizens, a cafeteria and a hairdresser's, and it will also have a green square for the enjoyment of all the neighbors of the area.

The general deputy has highlighted the "innovative" character of this project, its power of "traction", and its participation in the local ecosystem of care that is being built in the municipality of Usurbil, as well as in other municipalities of the territory, such as Pasaia, Azpeitia, Urretxu, Zestoa or Hernani. "In Gipuzkoa we are developing local care ecosystems in different municipalities, within the framework of Etorkizuna Eraikiz, and in coordination with Adinberri, town councils and social entities. It is a strategy that seeks to deepen the prevention of dependency and frailty, promoting personal autonomy and long-term care, and also offering support to caregivers." The deputy general explained that the future is to combine care with the community and with social innovation, thus creating advanced ecosystems at the local level, which can be extended at the territorial level.

In the words of the mayor, "in Usurbil we are immersed in the construction of a new care ecosystem, designing a whole strategy". She explained that this strategy aims to shape a local ecosystem that guarantees the sustainability of long-term care, territorialized, rooted in Usurbil, community-based, with a vocation to place at the center the wishes of the people who require care and, therefore, very oriented to households. Solaberrieta stressed that this reflection is being done collectively, that the field of care has been looked at from "an integral point of view" from the beginning, and that the process underway includes all the "views, edges and vertices".

Usurbil, February 4, 2022