



## INDEPENDENT IDEALS

# Communal concept

*Continued from front page*

There are now about 40 members, with numbers rising, who are committed to the concept and who already undertake joint activities. "We would like to get to know each other beforehand and minimise the potential for conflicts in advance," she explains. The aim of this co-housing initiative is to set up a project consisting of around 30 to 40 apartments of 60 to 70 square metres each, so everyone has their own area in which they can have privacy. At the same time, however, there are common rooms for cooking, washing, get-togethers or even for visitors. Cars and electrical appliances can also be purchased and maintained together. She added, "We want an inclusive community. This means that every individual, regardless of origin, status or religion, is equal and welcome. We are already multicultural and have local members as well as Germans, Britons and an Iranian. We are open to all. The altruistic idea is important to us and this includes community work, for example. Many of us are volunteers. Within our community we want to be active, cheerful and grow older together, to support each other, to experience things together and to help each other, to lead a free and independent life regardless of our age or to comfort each other when a life partner dies". In addition, services which are supplied from the outside can be financed together, such as nursing, gardening or a caretaker for the community.

### What does this mean in concrete terms?

"We have already worked out the philosophy behind the project but the practical implementation also depends on local conditions, and we can only determine this once we have found a plot of land. We are looking for land or a house that can be converted that is located in a city which offers cultural life and is in a mild climate zone. A connection to local life should be possible. We also want to be an open house for our neighbours.



↑ Celebrating Christmas together - members are already getting to know each other better

Example areas include Santa Cruz, Puerto de La Cruz or the lower part of Los Realejos in the El Toscal/La Longuera district. "We recently spoke to the mayor of Puerto de La Cruz, Lope Afonso, and he was very impressed with our idea. For the communities it would help us if the Island Council would officially support the concept. This would make it easier, for example, to develop rural areas for a social purpose. In other projects in Barcelona, for example, the city council provided a plot of land for a housing project and in return made it a condition that ten people would be admitted through the city's social welfare office. "That wouldn't be a problem for us. We could also imagine providing an apartment for single parents or for parents with a disabled child. We very much hope for political support to speed up our project. As soon as a property is found, a cooperative will be founded which will acquire it jointly. Then we have architects on hand who are familiar with housing and they will design the building with us. It is to be financed via an ethics bank, which usually support such projects. This means that each resident pays a contribution to cover the monthly mortgage and the costs of the community. How much this will be

also depends on the final costs. For example, if you have an apartment of 60 square metres worth around €130,000, an individual would expect to pay around €700 and €500 per person for a couple. The apartment is inheritable. The heir can then use it himself or sell it to the collective. This project is based on solidarity and above all it is not speculative. This means that it cannot be sold at too high a price and cannot be re-let at a rent that exceeds our rate. Solidarity and a sense of community are paramount. That's why apartments are to be planned that can be occupied by people admitted via the social welfare office in the respective city, and we want active exchange with the neighbourhood", Teresa continued. The members of the associa-

tion are travelling together to promote the project in various places, in fact it was recently presented at the University of La Laguna. The community sees itself as a charitable, friendly, altruistic and cosmopolitan alternative that makes it possible to grow old with individual dignity. Until the end, the members want to be active, and keep learning and participating in society.

The first co-housing model in the Canary Islands could be ready for occupancy in about three years. If you would like to find out more about the initiative, perhaps find a suitable property or would like to become a member, (younger members are expressly welcome), please contact [www.canariascohousing.com](http://www.canariascohousing.com) at any time. ■

## TIMELY CARE

### European elections 2019

The European elections will take place in the EU from May 23 to 26 this year.

Anyone wishing to vote must apply as a resident to the relevant municipality or to their last place of residence in their home country.

Elections are held every five years and simultaneously in all European countries. All EU citizens aged 18 and over can vote. However, if you are a foreigner living abroad, you elect the representatives of your host country, in this case Spain, who are to represent you in the EU. Current information on this topic can also be found on our Facebook page. ■

## EL CARDÓN

### Awarding hiking

*Continued from front page*

This latest recognition from the International Madrid Tourism Fair (Fitur) and the magazine *Aire Libre*, is far from the first, and for Company Director Valerio del Rosario Martín their most important 'prize' is the pleasure their clients get from their services.

However, it is the biggest official award they have received so far and it will be presented during Fitur which begins as this paper hits the streets. The award, one of four given for the best outdoor tourism activity, is for their latest project which has been well over two years in development and has already received two other prizes. We caught up with Valerio for more information just before he set off for Fitur to present his company and in particular this project to the specialists from around the world who attend the fair every year.



### Latitud

Said to be the "definitive experience of hiking in Tenerife", the project encompasses modules of seeing the island in various forms via a self-guided route which has been meticulously researched. It will kick off in February with hiking routes, to be shortly followed by trail-running and thereafter by options for cyclists. In the same way, the language choices will be introduced in stages, first in Spanish and from April in English to be followed by German and then other languages.

The routes take in some of the most emblematic landscapes of the island, from Punta del Teno to the faro in Anaga via Teide, covering some of the most characteristic Tinerfeñan scenery: laurisilva forests, volcanoes, pine forests, unique coastal landscapes and high altitude vistas. This is reflected in the 'symbols' that the clients are encouraged to photograph and share in social media. The cheeses of Teno Alto, the almonds of Santiago del Teide, the Pine forests of the Corona Forestal, El Teide, the wines of Tenerife in La Esperanza and the laurisilva of Anaga. Aimed at the fit and not faint-hearted, and only for the over 16s, there are two options, medium difficulty and hard, and you can choose to do the whole route in one blitz or in stages. Cut into approximately 25 kilometre bites, it will take from six days upwards depending on the fitness of the group. Or you can do it in slices of a couple of days at a time, staged over a weekend to serve residents as well as tourists. If you wish, you can contract a guide, but the instructions are exquisitely clear and marked out in infinite detail. In addition, as the security of the clients is paramount, each participant is fully insured and will be given a GPS location gadget which is also equipped with a signal device in case of emergencies. As the routes run through areas that are mainly off the beaten track, accommodation is in the main in albergues, hostels, and mountain refuges etc., but the locations in non-tourist areas mean that you need to book early if you wish to make modifications. Breakfast and some picnics/meals are included, others are of free choice in various out of the way villages. Your luggage will be shipped from starting point to finishing point every day for you and there is a 24 hour telephone support line if needed. This "new and original" project looks like it's heading for a smash hit, locally, nationally and internationally. Book your experience soon!

For more information and bookings, see [Latitudtenerife.com](http://Latitudtenerife.com). ■



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