

## Izaro Elorza Arregi

### Mayor of Oñati

Born in Oñati, married and with 2 daughters. She is a Telecommunications Engineer and has a European Master's Degree in Project Management. She is currently facing her first year as Mayor of Oñati. Her hobbies include sports, especially running, music, reading, cooking ...



“ After almost a year as Mayor, what is your general evaluation of what you have accomplished during this time? Has it met your own expectations?

*It is true that almost a year has passed since I took office. I can say that these months have involved a lot of work. First because we needed to continue projects that were already underway and we did not want them to be cut, and second, during the first months we had to organize and start up both municipal tasks and other organizations in which we participate. Now in 2020, I can say that things are moving forward and that I am happy about the strength of the group, about our coordination and in general, about the work we are doing. So I can say that these months, for me at least, have been very positive.*

“ Which of the so-called priority projects does the Mayor of Oñati have on the table?

*We have a long list of projects in hand, and one way or another, they are all important. Some are to be implemented*

*in the municipality and others are internal. To mention a few, I would say that in terms of time and cost, the work for the sports centre, Natur Eskola and the ostatu de Araatz are the major projects. There are also those for the mobility phases and the new urban lighting projects, or the Elorregi services. There are also projects that came from participatory budgeting that are scheduled to be completed in 2020. And, although they may not be so obvious due to the little effect they have on our lives, there are the participation regulations, the business plan, the tourism plan, the PGOU and of course, the diagnosis and implementation of the Equality Plan.*

“ Oñati is a town that has maintained a stable population over time. Has Oñati defined a desirable growth model for the Municipality?

*Oñati's population has increased by 0.4% since 2001; from 2001 to 2019 it grew by a total of 623 inhabitants. Structurally we could say that the population is aging, youth has increased*

*by 1.5% while the older population has increased by 4.2%. But that is something that is happening not only in Oñati, it is a general trend. So, in the coming years, a large demographic increase is not expected; however, we do expect the population to be older.*

“ This is a question that also concerns us in the ULMA Group. It seems that Oñati is at the limit of occupancy in terms of Industrial land, how do you think this might affect the business development of the municipality? Are any measures being taken?

*Right now we have started to work on the PGOU (General Urban Development Plan) and the first step has been to analyse the current situation, compare it with the subsidiary regulations of 2006 and produce a diagnosis. The outcomes include the following: a lot of land that was included in the standards is undeveloped. Also, after analysing the increase and evolution of industry and employment, the need for new land has not been confirmed. Of course we*

*must develop areas that are undeveloped. Therefore, based on the information gathered by the study, with the data that we have today and with the forecasts that are available, it does not seem that our industries will encounter any problems to carry out their work.*

“ The situation relating to transporting people to the workplaces in our environment is saturating our roads. At ULMA we are taking small steps to raise awareness with Sustainable Mobility programmes. Is the Oñati local council working on this problem?

*We rely on the mobility plan that the Local Authority produced at the time to put in place the improvements or projects that have been left undone and as a guide for possible new proposals. In recent years a range of work has been completed to ensure that citizens use cars as little as possible and to support sustainable mobility. In this mandate we will continue along this line, with a focus on sustainability. This was one of*

*the themes we worked on in meetings with companies when we started in the Local Authority. It is necessary for both parties to work on this, for companies to provide facilities, as ULMA does, also at the municipal level. On the one hand, we have infrastructure projects underway such as mobility, analyses of bus stops, bicycle lanes to workplaces, etc. On the other hand, we will continue with our awareness campaigns and specific programmes.*

“ Finally, as you know, Begira is a magazine for all members and workers of the ULMA Group, is there a message that the Mayor of Oñati would like to convey?

*On behalf of the Local Authority I want to thank all ULMA staff because in addition to being a world leader and placing Oñati on the map, the situation of economic stability is largely due to our industrial fabric, including ULMA. Looking to the future, I would say that I have new challenges, not only to safeguard jobs and create new ones and continue to maintain competitiveness but*

*also because we will have to change the way we do things and adapt by focusing on sustainability to guarantee the well-being of the next generations. It is a task that we have to do together. A task that involves the Local Authority, companies, and also citizens.*

“ In recent years, a range of work has been completed to ensure that citizens use cars as little as possible and to support sustainable mobility. In this mandate we will continue along this path with a focus on sustainability..