

## *Evolution of the economy.*

### **Education, culture and sports**

The Centre for Research in Earth Sciences of the Institute of Andorran Studies, with the collaboration of Barcelona University, has drawn up a new geological map in digital format, on a scale of 1:50.000.

The law of cultural heritage was approved in the Cabinet and entered the proceedings, but will not be approved until 2003. The law establishes the objectives of the protection and diffusion of heritage.

The results of the analysis of a rib found in a prehistoric site uncovered in Ordino has allowed it to be confirmed that it is from the earliest inhabitant of the country known as yet. The analysis has shown that it is a woman of 30 to 35, with a height of 1.47 metres, with highly developed musculature and without bone deformations. These human remains date back to between 4300 and 4050 bc. The grave goods discovered in the archaeological excavation are formed by different pieces of ceramic, tens of necklaces and shell bracelets that are the first to be found.

On 16<sup>th</sup> December, la Farga Rossell and the Iron Interpretation Centre were opened. The work took six months and more than 300 people have been involved, studying nearly 4,000 documents. La Farga Rossell gives us one of the references to 19<sup>th</sup> century steel works in the Principality.

The Andorran Science Society dedicated the 15<sup>th</sup> Day in the Prada de Conflent Catalan Summer University, sponsored by Andbanc, to the history of the country. The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of the Summer University held in the capital was centred on globalisation from different cultural and political angles and perspectives. The Summer University was born in 1982. The early years dealt with medieval history and from 1986 a multidisciplinary forum was set up on current affairs. José Luis Sampedro was a regular Spanish intellectual here and was appointed president of honour in 1995.

The Nobel prize-winner for economy of 2001 and president of the council of economic advisors in the United States, Joseph Stiglitz, gave the main talk in the opening day of the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Meeting in the Pyrenees, which took place in Andorra for the first time. The president of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, Jordi Pujol, opened the meetings.

According to the report that was published by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services, the national economy maintained a high growth rate of 3% in 2001, and the perspectives for 2002 confirmed this positive tendency. The Chamber itself agreed to publish a book on Andorra in the 20th century, which will bring together the economic and social history of the country and will not be published until 2004, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the founding of the entity. The doctor in geography Maria Jesús Lluelles, will be responsible for developing the project.

The professor of applied economics in Barcelona University Xavier Sáez explained that we can feel the tendencies of world slowing even though the national productive structure might maintain propitious growth, as according to the statistical indicators of 2001, the Andorran economy strongly withstood the poor growth expectations of the E.U. and maintained gradual growth without failing to reflect the continuity of an expansion process. The study showed that in 2002, it could be more difficult to maintain a growth rate in an unfavourable environment.

In July, the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Pere Cervós, opened the fourth Andorra International Congress on the Environment, held in Escaldes-Engordany and which dealt with the challenges of ecotourism in mountain areas. The minister highlighted that the infrastructures needed for skiing have caused deforestation and the exhaustion of natural resources. Throughout the meetings, the president of Unió Hotelera, who at the time was Marc Aleix, warned of the danger of the current model of growth in national tourism and had strong words for the policy of expansion and creation of new skiing areas, which he holds responsible for a large part of the destruction of natural mountain areas with the installation of sports areas and accommodation. In the country there are currently 600 ski monitors, whereas there are only some forty people devoted to mountain activities.

In December, the Minister of Education also opened the new Andorran baccalaureate institute in la Margineda. The centre had an overall cost of 9 million euros and covers six floors. The institute currently received 77 pupils, although it has capacity for 400.