



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

The CNAU is committed to education to promote peace around the world

The Secretary General, Jean Michel Armengol, highlights the fight against hate speech and the use of information

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With the celebration of the International Day of Education, the Secretary General of the Andorran National Commission for Unesco (CNAU), Jean Michel Armengol, made statements in which he explained how education is an essential tool for humanity, in which a world that is suffering the historical moment with more open conflicts in the entire planet. Armengol explained the great work carried out by Unesco in strategic aspects in which Andorra is an active actor to alleviate this global situation. Problems such as hate speech and the need for training for the multiple ways of accessing information are some of the issues that require an international effort that helps to coordinate Unesco as a «concentration of human intelligence to be able to promote proposals to maintain peace» using education as an engine for fostering the critical capacity of a citizenry. ≡



►► Unesco headquarters.

UNESCO

The country and Unesco: Together for education

The general secretary of the CNAU, Jean Michel Armengol, explains how Andorra interacts with Unesco in order to promote education. ≡ **From primary education** to higher education, it acts in multiple training areas.

JOAN JIMÉNEZ
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The Secretary General of the Andorran National Commission for Unesco (CNAU), Jean Michel Armengol, explains to us on this International Education Day the work that Andorra develops together with Unesco in educational matters, in which our country can stand out with their educational systems on an international scale, what state education is on a global scale and why it is so important to enjoy good educational mechanisms and youth participation for our societies.

The Principality has managed to consolidate a very remarkable educational structure for a state of small dimensions, having three free educational systems (Andorran, Spanish and French) in addition to having other private systems such as English. According to Armengol, this fact is one of the great values that the country has abroad, which is admired by other states that see the Principality as an example to follow. In the words of the director of the CNAU: «**At the level of Unesco, every time we meet with the regional group of Europe and Cana-**

da, for example, they all say that it is quite impressive that a country like Andorra can have so many educational systems». Armengol sees in this fact a remarkable value that «allows us to open up in the linguistic, cultural and educational sphere». In addition, within these systems, there is a diversity of nationalities which is also favorable for the development of children, also promoting the catalog of offers of the parents themselves who see the wide possibilities that their child has in Andorra.

To try to make a joint coordination towards global development, the 193 member states of the United Nations created the 2030 Agenda with a series of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among them, number four, Quality Education. In order to fulfill the objective, Andorra has collaborated in several initiatives with Unesco in order to achieve this ODS both nationally and internationally. One of them is the Unesco Associated Schools Network created 25 years ago and, among the more than 10,000 educational centers around the world, eight of these are Andorran. As Armengol explains: «**Each school associated with UNESCO chooses a**

theme that it will develop and it is a commitment both on the part of the management of the educational center and the professionals who take over with the students». For this current academic year 2023-2024, the activities of the Andorran network focus on six thematic axes: Heritage, Social Sciences, Sustainability and Environment, International and World Days, Exhibitions and Science Week. An example of an activity for each axis would be the talks and workshops that are organized in schools regarding the cultural and intangible heritage of Andorra that have received recognition from Unesco such as transhumance or the Bear dance, to convey cultural heritage to future generations and that they can learn the values that these traditions transmit. Likewise, other examples would be the workshops held regarding the situation of refugees on a global scale or the impacts of climate change, in which awareness is gained about these major crises that pose two major current and future challenges. They also celebrate international days such as, for example, that of radio, in which students learn how to prepare a podcasting program in RTVA studies, or that

of human rights, where they learn from historical moments such as the vindication of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence. In addition, exhibitions such as 'Dessins pour la paix', dedicated to freedom of expression, press or belief, are held and topics such as racism, the role of the Internet, women's rights or



JEAN MICHEL ARMENGOL
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
CNAU

«At Unesco, everyone says it's impressive that a country like Andorra can have so many educational systems»

the situation of children in conflicts. Finally, during science week, the network develops the Meeting of Young Scientists, an interschool competition in which students research, create and present a project that promotes scientific innovation.

Likewise, the Principality is also part of the UniTwin program, which brings together more than 850 institutions in 117 countries, to promote cooperation and inter-university links on a global scale with the aim of strengthening institutional capacities through the exchange of knowledge and the collaboration. In the Andorran case, this program is present through the Unesco chair of the University of Andorra (UdA) where they have «**a commitment to be able to develop a whole series of activities and sustainable development objectives. Every four years they make a report explaining how they have been able to concretely develop the objectives that had been set within the framework of this commitment to describe this network»**, as explained by the general secretary.

Finally, it is necessary to mention the country's participation in several youth initiatives, which encourage the participation of young people in international decision-making. This is the case of the Unesco Youth Forum, where Andorra was present in the 2023 edition. ≡

SOCIETY

The works on Sant Julià de Lòria avenue will begin at the end of the year

The Government has allocated a sum of 100,000 euros for the construction of the last section of the road

Concòrdia has achieved this thanks to the amendments to the 2025 budget

ARXIU ANA



►► An archive image of the Sant Julià de Lòria avenue.

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Concòrdia reported last Tuesday through social networks that based on the work done on the amendments to the budget, the Sant Julià avenue will be a reality this year. The general councilors of Concòrdia, Pol Bartolomé and Maria Àngels Aché, made the agreement public through a video on social networks to explain the good news and emphasized that the objective of the road is to move traffic away from the center of the parish,

and that at the same time «the road is a historical claim of Laureadians. Now we can finally announce the start of the works».

After weeks of negotiating with the Ministry of Territory and the majority group, Bartolomé explained that Concòrdia has reached an agreement to anticipate the start of work on the last section of the road. This is how it is planned in the new Government budget with an item of 100,000 euros for the start of the construction of the road. The works will begin at the end of this same year with the aim of diverting traffic from the center of the



Maria Àngels Aché
GENERAL COUNSELLOR



«The road is essential for Sant Julià de Lòria to divert traffic outside the urban center and to rethink how we want the parish to be»

parish.

This will make Sant Julià a friendlier, greener and pedestrian-friendly parish, which will also be a greater attraction for traders and visitors.

From Concòrdia recalled that this has been possible thanks to all the effort and work developed by all past generations claiming the importance of this infrastructure, and pointed out that «now is the time to look to the future with optimism, let's take advantage the completion of the road to reflect together on what should be the most suitable urban model for Sant Julià».

The works also include a remodeling of the Rocafort tunnel and

The works include a remodeling of the Rocafort tunnel and rock fall protection works

rockfall protection work that will begin in 2025. The total sum of the project is 24 million euros and it will not be until the end of 2027 when it can finish the construction.

The general councilor, Maria Àngels Aché, explained to EL PERIÒDIC that it was a proposal that Laureadians had been waiting for a long time, and that is why they included it in the electoral program because they believe that «it is crucial for the parish of Sant Julià de Lòria divert traffic outside the urban center and be able to rethink how we want the parish to be».

Aché detailed that her will is to join forces with the current consuls to be able to make this road a reality. Going into detail, the works will start to be tendered and permits will be granted at the end of 2024. The general councilor stated that the budget of 100,000 euros given by the Executive, «is a great commitment that the Government is making towards the parish of Sant Julià de Lòria. It is a good predisposition even if it is 100,000 euros, we welcome this fact with positivism».

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