

LABOUR MARKET

Lowest unemployment for nine years

In the first quarter of 2017, the unemployment level for the Canary Islands was announced as 279,800.

Taking into account the statistics for the past 12 months, the percentage of people registered as unemployed is 25.68 per cent. The lowest it has been since 2008.

Compared to the first quarter of last year only, this represents a slight increase of 1.9 per cent; however, because the Easter period fell in the first trimester of 2016, a period that is typically high for jobseekers actively pursuing work and for employers issuing new work contracts, the latest figure has been received positively.

Sergio Alonso, the director of the Canary Islands Employment Service (SCE), was pleased with the findings: "The Canaries belong to the group of Spanish provinces with the highest percentage of over 16 year olds able to work, with 60.15 per cent of the population available in the labour market. The Canaries are fourth behind Madrid, the Balearic Islands and Catalonia, but ahead of the national average of 58.78 per cent. We are currently experiencing a positive upturn and, if incentives for employers continue, we can expect to see more stable working conditions and contracts made available to the Islands' workforce." Alonso said. ■



↑ The number of contracts for Canarian workers is rising

PYRAMIDS OF GÜÍMAR

Ethnographic Park misses out on award



↑ The Güímar Ethnographic Park failed to win the coveted EMYA this year

Güímar Ethnographic Park will have to try again next year to win the European Museum of the Year award (EMYA).

The 2017 winner was announced as the Museum of Ethnography in Geneva, Switzerland, which received the prestigious EMYA trophy - 'The Egg' by Henry Moore - which it will keep for one year.

The award was founded in 1977 by the Council of Europe with the purpose of honouring Europe's finest museums and to promote learning and innovation for

the benefit of society. This year's event was recently presented in Zagreb, Croatia. The ceremony coincided with EMYA's 40th anniversary and was attended by over 200 people from 29 European countries.

The opening of the Sustainable Garden played a key role in Güímar Ethnographic Park's nomination. The new 1,000m2 feature is useful for the advancement of sustainable gardens on the Islands, and was developed in collaboration with the University of La Laguna. The garden

is based on a typical Canarian barranco (ravine) and the characteristic flora and wildlife to be found there. It even houses specimens of the European eel, since it is the only freshwater fish present in the Islands.

The Tenerife-based ethnographic park said that it was "delighted" to make the shortlist for the award. It started off as one of 42 museum nominations in 22 European countries, and was this year's only Spanish entry.

Past recipients of the EMYA include: the Victoria and

Albert Museum in London, the National Railway Museum in York, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The winner in 2016 was the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The Pyramids of Güímar and accompanying museum, part of the Ethnographic Park, are still a mysterious and interesting island attraction, with many tourists flocking to the site every year.

For further information visit: www.piramidesdeguimar.es/en. ■

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