PRESS RELEASE

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The initiative is an example of cooperation between companies and educational institutions

SONAE AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE SIGN PROTOCOL FOR PROMOTION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Sonae Retail School, an internal Sonae school for talent development in the retail sector, offers internships to vocational school students. The first course, for training logistics technicians, is already underway in partnership with Escola de Comércio de Lisboa (Lisbon School of Commerce) and involves 23 students.

Sonae has signed a protocol of cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science for the development of vocational courses in secondary education. This partnership is part of the human resources and cooperation policy with other academic and teaching intuitions at Sonae and aims to empower youth through development of in-house training in companies, enabling better preparation for the job market.

The partnership established allows Sonae to put its knowledge and skills at the service of the Community along with its human, technical and financial resources. The initiative will develop specialised technicians who may become part of Sonae, thus contributing to the development of its operations.

Through the Sonae Retail School, Sonae is already providing young people with internships and had developed a vocational course to train Logistics Technicians in partnership with the School of Commerce in Lisbon. The course, which currently has 23 students and a total of 3,000 hours, 1,400 of which 1,400 in an internship, includes theoretical and practical classes and practical training in areas such as order, warehouse receiving and shipping, forklift operation and information networks and flows. This is a dual certification course as it provides level 4 professional certification on the National Qualifications Framework and a diploma of completion of secondary education.

The secondary education vocational courses are open to young people aged 16 or over, who have completed their 9th year of schooling. Candidates who meet the entry conditions will be subject to selection taking into consideration criteria such as age, maturity and vocation.

Sonae is a retail company with two large partnerships in the areas of Shopping Centres (Sonae Sierra) and Software and Information Systems, Media and Telecommunications (Sonaecom). At the end of 2014 Sonae posted turnover of around 5 billion euros. The company's strategic objectives are: internationalisation, diversification of investments and leveraging and boosting assets and skills bases.
Find out more at www.sonae.pt

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According to the agreement signed with the Ministry of Education and Science, Sonae is a benchmark in the Portuguese market, with an active presence and a strong focus on its business sector, bringing together excellent conditions for an active liaison with schools by implementing these courses together. The two sides therefore believe it is essential to extend the experience begun between Sonae and the Lisbon School of Commerce to more students and more schools.

Sonae Retail School provides 1.4 million hours of training

Sonae believes that people are at the heart of its success. Therefore, in 2009 it launched the Sonae Retail School, a comprehensive training system for the sustainable development of the Sonae's employees, made up of a set of schools and knowledge academies that cover the full range of businesses in retail or those that are directly linked to it. In 2014 this investment resulted in 1.3 million hours of training provided to employees of Sonae's retail areas.

The Sonae Retail School aims to develop the skills and potential of employees and drive change and development of the various businesses. The Sonae corporate university Sonae has its own content development teams and more than 3,900 internal trainers, but seeks knowledge wherever it is: Business Schools; Business Partners; Colleagues; Customers; Community.

As part of the Sonae Retail School in 2012 the Logistics School was launched, aimed at all employees of the Logistics Operation, to support their professional development in a sustainable way, contributing to a culture of excellence focused on processes and customer service. However, it is open structure to anyone who is interested and whose career path is in some way linked to Logistics. The Logistics School of the Sonae Retail School is therefore offering the Logistics Technician vocational course developed in partnership with the Lisbon School of Commerce and the Ministry of Education and Science.