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Initiative seeks to foster young people's interest for scientific areas

PORTUGUESE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT PROMOTE YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS

Sonae spoke to the Directorate-General for Education and the educational programme led by Oporto City Council – Future Oporto (*Porto de Futuro)*, presenting an initiative that seeks to raise awareness and encourage young people's interest for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), considered to be extremely relevant areas for the country's sustainable and inclusive development. This action, intended to increase the number of students and future professionals in these areas, originated a memorandum of understanding involving Portuguese companies and the government that was signed today, April 4th.

The protocol is signed by the Directorate-General for Education, Oporto City Council, Sonae, Cerealis, Unicer, the School Cluster of Rodrigues de Freitas, Clara de Resende and Cerco, Porto Business School, PWC and the EDULOG - *Think Tank* by Belmiro de Azevedo Foundation.

This initiative anticipates the development of a group of actions intended to strengthen classroom learning, promote curriculum enrichment and knowledge about professions within this field. Hence, experimental sciences and mathematics will be naturally privileged, fostering young people's interest in scientific areas.

José Côrte Real, Human Resources Administrator at Sonae, says: "At Sonae, sustainable development is not a recent investment but rather a culture: it is part and parcel of our DNA and of our mission to take the benefits of progress and innovation to increasingly more people. As a long living company, our way of conducting business reflects our commitment towards creating short, medium and long-term shared value for the company and for society. We believe prosperous and sustained growth entails the natural involvement of the community and a very specific investment in Education. For that reason, we have worked in partnership with *Porto de Futuro* and the School Cluster of Cerco since 2007, in a growing relationship to which this memorandum now brings new

Sonae is a multinational company managing a diversified portfolio of businesses in retail, financial services, technology, shopping centres and telecommunications. Present in over 70 countries, Sonae reached a turnover of more than 5 billion euros by the end of 2015. Find out more at www.sonae,pt

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ambitions. We wish to steer young people to scientific areas and contribute to the emergence of qualified professionals who, through their competencies, can help towards a more sustainable Portugal."

About Sonae

Sonae is a multinational company managing a diversified business portfolio in retail, financial services, technology, shopping centres and telecommunications. Present in 89 countries, Sonae reached a turnover of 5.4 billion euros by the end of 2016.

Through Sonae Activshare, its social responsibility and volunteering programme, Sonae organised several projects and initiatives throughout 2016, in the areas of social solidarity, health and sports, environmental awareness, culture, education and science and innovation, in a more than €10 M investment that benefited about 1,400 institutions.

Find out more at www.sonae.pt