COMUNICADO/

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"Right Hand" volunteer project raises young people's awareness of the relevance of education and entrepreneurship

SONAE OPENS ITS DOORS TO OVER 60 STUDENTS WHO WILL SPEND A DAY AS EMPLOYEES

This corporate responsibility initiative seeks to help young people to know the job market before they decide on their professional future, spending a day with our employees. Among the volunteers there are several of Sonae MC's top managers.

In the week that marks "Right Hand" Day (22nd March), Sonae opens its doors to more than 60 9th grade and high school students from across the country, who will spend a day with employees who volunteered. This initiative was developed by Junior Achievement Portugal and Sonae and it includes the participation of five Sonae MC Executive Board members, who will host seven students per day.

Isabel Barros, Executive Board Member of Sonae MC, stresses: "Sonae MC organises a number of initiatives directed at children and young people, which allow them to be in touch, from an early stage, with the labour world. For 9th grade students, in a time when the moment to make decisions about career guidance approaches, we seek to help them make wiser decisions, creating privileged moments of vocational exploration in a real working context. Being aware of the relevance of this moment, Sonae MC's Executive Board members made themselves available to host students for a day, getting them to know their experience, the reality of their work and the company, with the goal not only of inspiring, but also learning from tomorrow's leaders".

In the "Right Hand" Project, students join volunteers in their work environment for a day, an experience that allows them to acquire expertise on culture, work ethics and the many existing career options. At Sonae, young people will be in touch with jobs that concern several business areas, namely those related with managing logistic warehouses, communication, administrative work, IT, human resources, sales analysis, team management or in-store quality control.

Catarina Oliveira Fernandes, Sonae's head of Communication, Brand and Corporate Responsibility, states: "Education is vital and the true driver for community development, thus Sonae has promoted multiple initiatives to support children and young people in their transition to

A Sonae é uma multinacional que gere um portefólio diversificado de negócios nas áreas de retalho, serviços financeiros, tecnologia, centros comerciais e telecomunicações. Está presente em cerca de 90 países, tendo atingido, no final de 2017, um volume de negócios de 5,7 mil milhões de euros.
Saiba mais em www.sonae.pt

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adulthood, contributing to the development of knowledge, skills, values and experiences, namely to approach the job market. An example of this work is the partnership with JA Portugal, which began in 2006 and has since benefitted more than 18,800 students, in more than 10,700 hours of volunteering, and involved more than 1,280 Sonae employees".

Sonae has collaborated with Junior Achievement Portugal in the development of the Right Hand Project, but also in a wide range of other projects that foster skills in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, citizenship, leadership, teamwork, perseverance, decision making and communication, thus contributing to a better preparation for the labour market.

Among the young participants who will have the chance to be Sonae employees' "right hand", there are students from Cerco School Group. Sonae has been a partner of this school group since 2007, in the sphere of the "Porto Futuro" Project, which seeks to provide school management and development with support, aiming at a more regular participation of civil society in school life, acknowledging the fundamental part played by Education in the sustained development of a more competitive and dynamic society.

Education is one of the strategic vectors in Sonae's social responsibility policies, whose initiatives contribute proactively to accomplish Sonae's mission to "take the benefits of progress and innovation to a growing number of people".