Press Release

Maia, 2 May 2024

Sonae launches 2nd edition of Sonae Education Award and increases the prize money to 150 thousand euros

- **The award will distinguish innovative and inclusive projects that contribute to improving access and the quality of education in Portugal, at all stages of the learning cycle.**
- **Applications run until June 30th and are open to private institutions, whether for profit or non-profit, and, for the first time, also to public schools.**
- **NoCode Institute and EKUI were the winners of the first edition in 2023, among over 400 initiatives competing.**

Sonae has just launched the second edition of the Sonae Education Award to promote innovation and inclusion in education in Portugal. The initiative will distinguish projects that contribute to improving access and the quality of education in Portugal, at all stages of the learning cycle.

Following the success of the first edition, with over 400 applications, in 2024 Sonae decided to increase the monetary value of the award by 50%, from 100 thousand to 150 thousand euros, aiming to stimulate the emergence of more innovative initiatives in the field of Education in Portugal and to strengthen the number of supported projects. The goal is to reward projects that promote innovative educational approaches and that, through education, qualification or requalification, contribute to mitigating factors of inequality or exclusion, fostering a more inclusive, empowered, and resilient society.

João Günther Amaral, a jury member and executive board member of Sonae, states: "Education is the most powerful social elevator, essential to accelerate individual and societal development, and to combat inequalities. The over 400 applications from the first edition showed us that the Sonae Education Award can indeed make a difference in the work of organizations essential for improving the quality of education in the country. Therefore, in this second edition, we increased the value of the award and opened it to all entities, including public schools, recognizing the quality of the projects and their potential impact. In this way, we hope to continue to reinforce our contribution to the modernization of current teaching models and to increase equal opportunities for all."

In this second edition, Sonae decided to extend the possibility of applications to any type of entity, whether public or private, for profit or non-profit, as long as they focus on the social impact of their intervention in the field of education, qualification, or requalification. Thus, for the first time, public schools can apply for the Sonae Education Award and benefit from financial support and Sonae's know-how.

Sonae exists to create a lasting positive impact on businesses, people, communities and on the planet. Managing a diverse portfolio of businesses in retail, financial services, technology, investments, shopping centres and telecommunications, we make the most of our expertise and push ourselves to create the future we all want and need. Creating today a better tomorrow, for all.
Find out more at www.sonae.pt

For more information, contact:

Diogo Simão
Director / BAN Corporate & Media Relations
M. +351 93 652 86 39 • E. ds@ban.pt

Applications are open until June 30, 2024. Entities can apply with one or more projects, but only one can be awarded. In total, the value of the Sonae Education Award will be divided among three or more projects.

The jury for the second edition of the Sonae Education Award is composed of Isabel Alçada, a teacher and member of the EDULOG Advisory Council, João Gonçalves, director-general of School Establishments (DGEstE), Nuno Comando, Head of Incubation, Acceleration & Communications at Casa do Impacto da SCML, Rita Serra, Education Lead at Microsoft Portugal, and João Günther Amaral, executive administrator of Sonae.

NoCode Institute and EKUI won the first edition

In the first edition, the Sonae Education Award received over 400 applications, distinguishing the projects presented by the NoCode Institute and EKUI.

The NoCode Institute competed with a digital platform that aims to requalify and relaunch careers of professionals at risk due to the digital economy. The objective of this project is to democratize software building skills through visual programming.

EKUI (acronym for Equity, Knowledge, Universality, and Inclusion) is a project aimed at eliminating barriers in linguistic communication. The goal is to enable children, young people, and adults, regardless of their special needs, to universally understand each other. This communication is achieved through an inclusive literacy and rehabilitation methodology, combining four forms of communication: graphic, braille, sign language, and phonetic alphabet.

The first edition also had as finalists' projects developed by entities such as: the Johnson Semedo Academy Association, the Association of Schools 20 (Second Chance), the Pontinclusiva Association, Brother in Arms, the Institute of Development and Social Inclusion - IDIS, Maker Toolbox, Lda, the Social Innovation Sportshub Association, and the Portuguese Catholic University, the Regional Center of Braga, and the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences. This initiative allowed Sonae to deeply understand many entities, laying the groundwork for joint projects with some of them.

Sonae Education Award and the connection to Belmiro de Azevedo

Education and training were a priority for Belmiro de Azevedo, a man who always had his eyes on the future and who promoted investment in people, considering that his own path was only possible due to the opportunities that studies provided him to develop his potential. This legacy materialized over the years with the creation of the Belmiro de Azevedo Foundation, a think tank dedicated to Education (EDULOG), with the emergence of Efanor College, a corporate

responsibility policy of Sonae that has Education as one of its main investment and action axes, and also in co-leading reskilling and upskilling projects at the European level (PRO_MOV R4E).

More information about the Sonae Education Award at: www.premiosonaeeducacao.pt.