

PRESS RELEASE

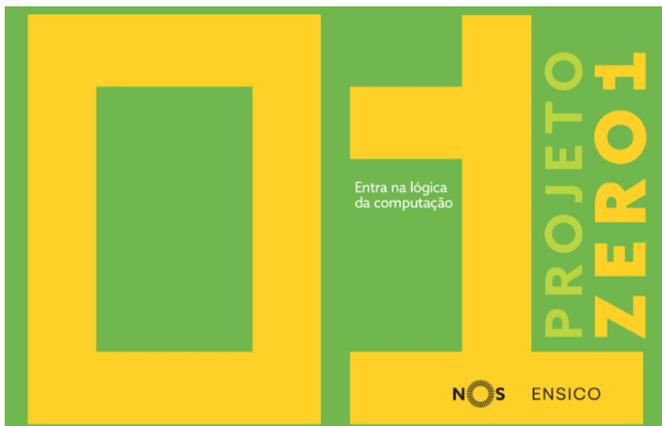
20/10/2022

NOS FOCUSES ON DIGITAL LITERACY AND INCLUSION

PROJETO ZER01 BRINGS COMPUTING LESSONS TO MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS

- **Lessons will be given throughout the school year 22/23 in seven Portuguese schools**
- **Project includes recruitment and specific training for teachers**
- **Initiative is the result of a partnership between NOS and ENSICO**

NOS and ENSICO have joined forces to create the Projeto ZER01, an initiative which has the goal of bringing the teaching of Computing to schools across the country. The subject will be taught throughout the school year in seven Portuguese schools, involving more than 400 students.



Computing is the scientific base that explores the power of computers. It helps to develop logical thinking, the ability to resolve problems and stimulates creativity. It is a body of knowledge, independently of the use of machines, which aims at providing children and young people with the skills to act as creators and entrepreneurs, keeping track of change and social, economic and technological trends.

Computer thinking includes abstraction, analysis, recognizing patterns, analyzing algorithms and developing processes in an integrated manner, and helps contribute towards a better ability to learn other key subjects, such as Mathematics and the Portuguese language, and to improve the school performance of students.

The teaching of Computing to children and young people of school age is thus a unique opportunity to make a significant impact on the success and inclusion of new generations.

“NOS believes that the teaching of Computing contributes towards the development of skills, equality of opportunity for children and young people and towards increasing the sense of excellence and capability of everyone. We think that it is very important that children and young people learn to think computationally, and will thus be better prepared to make their contribution to society through a clear and timely decision about their vocation”, adds Margarida Nápoles, Corporate Communications Manager at NOS.

Luís Neves, co-founder and President of ENSICO, says that *“computing is more a reflection of human imagination, creativity and ability. It is the scientific basis that enables the power of machines to be explored. It is this knowledge, essentially, that we are aiming to offer to children and young people through the Projeto ZER01. NOS’ support has strengthened the project’s reach across Portugal in the current school year. In addition to the schools involved in the Projeto ZER01, the ENSICO plan*

ZER01 PROJECT BRINGS COMPUTING CLASSES TO MORE THAN 400 STUDENTS



already covers 18 schools, 100 classes and around 2,500 students, allowing the teaching of computing to be carried out across the country, from north to south and east to west, without forgetting that we are currently working to try and reach Madeira and the Azores as well. This is a unique movement in Portugal, which city and town councils are waking up to, due to the determination and will of schools and in view of the autonomy that the law gives them, as well as the pressure exerted by parents, who are increasingly aware of the need for universal access to quality education in computing”.

This initiative, which has a strong social impact, started at the beginning of the current school year, involving 18 classes in seven separate schools, among which are four in the São João de Pesqueira Schools Group in the centre of the Douro area. In addition to these, two schools from the Gondomar number 1 Schools Group and a school in Tires belonging to the Frei Gonçalo de Azevedo Schools Group are already running computing classes on a weekly basis.

The Projeto ZER01 does not just involve students but also teachers. The classes are given by *Master Teachers* with degrees in Mathematics, Basic Education, Computer Engineering or Computing Sciences, specifically recruited for this purpose and provided with a training plan for them to be able to take part in the project.

The aim is to grow the Projeto ZER01 and to that end workshops are planned in other schools with the goal of demonstrating to teachers, students and educational professionals the benefits of studying and learning this discipline. Also, during this first term of the school year, in partnership with the Bagos D'Ouro Association, four workshops on this subject will take place in order for the teaching of computing to be available to more and more students. Bagos D'Ouro is an NGO that monitors disadvantaged children and young people in the Douro river region.

About NOS

NOS is the biggest communications and entertainment group in Portugal. It offers latest generation fixed and mobile phone, television, Internet, voice and data solutions for all market segments. It is leader in cinema film distribution and exhibition with the greatest number of cinema complexes and cinema theatres in Portugal. NOS has 5 million mobile phone, 1.7 million television, 1.8 million fixed telephone and 1.5 million fixed broad band Internet customers.

For more information, please go to <http://www.nos.pt/institucional>

About ENSICO

ENSICO is a Non Profit Making NGO that supports the teaching of Computing to all Primary and Secondary School students, proposing a curricular program and goals that promote digital literacy and ethics based on the field of Computing Sciences. Its action plan involves the teaching of computing over a 3 year time period, in order that schools can ensure that students learn the fundamentals of Computing Science in Primary and Secondary education given by the Portuguese educational system. ENSICO believes that the teaching of Computing will be a driver of equality and excellence, promote scientific and technological literacy, as well as being a factor that will act as a catalyst and focal point for learning and multi-disciplinary approaches.