



# Escola Profissional do Pico

## SWOT Analysis

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- Pico Professional School is in activity since 1999, with 15 years of experience;
- The only vocational school on the island;
- Relative stability within the group of teachers responsible for the Sociocultural and Scientific Component; They must all have their Degree in Teaching;



# SWOT Analysis



- All practical Trainers are well qualified and have good experience in the area they are teaching; must have their Certificate of Aptitude for Teaching/Training;
- Guidance and Counseling office;
- Strong motivation to respond to the labor market's needs (carrying out annual questionnaires);

# SWOT Analysis



- Integration of Entrepreneurship as a module in all courses;
- School newspaper “*O Leme*”, edited in each trimester and sent out with local newspaper;
- Existence of a small canteen/bar which guarantees breakfasts and lunches;

# SWOT Analysis



- Existence of “Eco-Schools” project;
- A good level of interaction with the local community, by way of cooperation protocols and agreements with entities, companies, for on-the-job placements;
- Participation in various European Life Long Learning Projects;



# SWOT Analysis



- Small school where there is a sense of family;
- Good school environment in general;
- Some cooperation with parents;
- Good cooperation with school management;
- Some autonomy to adapt the curriculum to the real necessities of the labor market and to today's society;





# SWOT Analysis



- Investment in some specific equipment, such as IT; electronics and automation and restauration;
- Good employment perspectives;
- Relatively good number of study visits are organized during the school year;
- Good organization and coordination of the practical training process;

# SWOT Analysis

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WEAKNESSES



# SWOT Analysis

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- Very handicapped building, lacking in space, lacking in laboratories and workshops for practical classes; lacking a decent canteen, an auditorium and a student meeting/working area;
- Reduced number of technological equipment for pedagogical use;
- Absence of a specialized field of studies;

# SWOT Analysis

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- Total dependence of European Funding;
  - Instability of trainers of technological and practical classes, due to the variety of courses/fields of studies offered;
  - Not much availability of training offered to staff or to teachers/trainers;

# SWOT Analysis

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- Not many parents participate in their children's school life;
  - Not many workshops are organized;
  - Absence of support classes for students with difficulty in specific subjects (lack of financial support);

# SWOT Analysis

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OPPORTUNITIES



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme



# SWOT Analysis



- The need for specific training on the Island, due to the labor market's needs for well trained employees;
- Compulsory schooling is now until grade 12;
- Integration of students from almost all islands of the Azores;
- Proximity to the neighboring islands of Faial and S. Jorge;



# SWOT Analysis

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- Existence of daily boat links between these islands;
- The new 2014-2020 European Funding Programme, which has just started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, predicts that a large part of the financial investment is intended for Vocational Education and Training;
- Some renovations/requalification in the school building;





# SWOT Analysis

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# SWOT Analysis



- The constant need to adapt the courses to the region's necessities;
- The negative connotation which is still associated to vocational training or to vocational schools, many times considered by society as the “last” opportunity for bad students or dropouts. Many times regular secondary schools are the promoters of these ideas, considering vocational schools opponents rather than a credible alternative;
- Low population rate;

# SWOT Analysis



- Low number of companies, factories, enterprises; consequently reduced number of job placements;
- Reduced number of teachers/trainers for specific technical and practical fields of studies;
- Too much bureaucracy;
- Lack of definition of certain rules and regulations concerning vocational education and training



# SWOT Analysis



- Lack of sensibility from our authorities who seem to forget that we are dealing with people and not numbers;
- Our students come from different backgrounds; have different life stories; sometimes have social and economic problems; different learning rhythms; cultural differences.

# SWOT Analysis



Thanks for your attention

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