

Creative jobs for young people in Madeira



One of the 'characters' in a pedagogical stereoscopic film designed by the students for children

Project name

3D stereographic producers

Project duration

September 2001
December 2002

ESF Priority Area

Adaptability in the workforce

Country

Portugal

ESF Funding

€ 145,551

Total Funding

€ 172,423

ESF Funding Type

Objective 1

Target Group

Young people

Name of coordinating organisation

Arquimedes - Produções Estereográficas

Contact Name

Alfredo Reis Deus

Address

Av. Arriaga, 75 - Sala 306,
9000 - 060 Funchal

Telephone

+351 291 229036

Fax

+351 291 225707

E-mail

mail@arquimedes.org

A company in Madeira is giving young people the opportunity to work with cutting-edge technology in the design and creation of virtual 3-D images for film animation or multimedia applications. Still a very specialised field, this training course offers its graduates a bright future.

Computer modelling and animation of 3-D images has many applications including film, architecture, web design, computer games and company marketing material. But there is only a handful of companies worldwide working in this specialised field of stereographic design. One of them, Arquimedes - Produções Estereográficas, is based in Madeira, and alongside stereographic production, they also offer advanced IT training courses throughout the island.

An innovative training

"We wanted to expand our capacity to produce 3D stereographic film, but there was no one around with the know-how or technical competences to work with us," says Alfredo Reis Deus, General Director of Arquimedes. "As a certified training organisation, we designed our own specialised programme that qualifies people to work as stereographic producers."

The course is now in its second year. It comprises 12 months of full-time training, and a three month work placement. Of the 12 students who completed the full 15-months in 2001-2002, seven are now working in Arquimedes, while others found work in the computer game industry, web design, have started to work freelance or set up their own company.

"We designed the course to give our students the best job prospects," explains Mr. Reis Deus. "Before entering the course, the students were tested in English, stress management and creativity, as well as for their technical skills in drawing, maths, geometry and 3D visualisation. The course itself included web design, multimedia conception, human and animal anatomy and movement, botany, dynamics, ergonomics and studies of the four elements: fire, water, air and earth."

Virtual and real dancers

The training course has also produced some interesting partnerships. Teaming up with a non-governmental organisation "Inclusive Dance", the students of the Arquimedes course produced an animated film used as the backdrop to a dance performed by disabled and non-disabled dancers. The 3-D images that appear to move freely on the screen complement the dancers movement. The show was premiered in the official opening ceremony of the World Basketball Championship for mentally handicapped players, and it has been performed several times in Portugal and Brazil.