

“Encontro com o Cientista”: informal talks to engage students



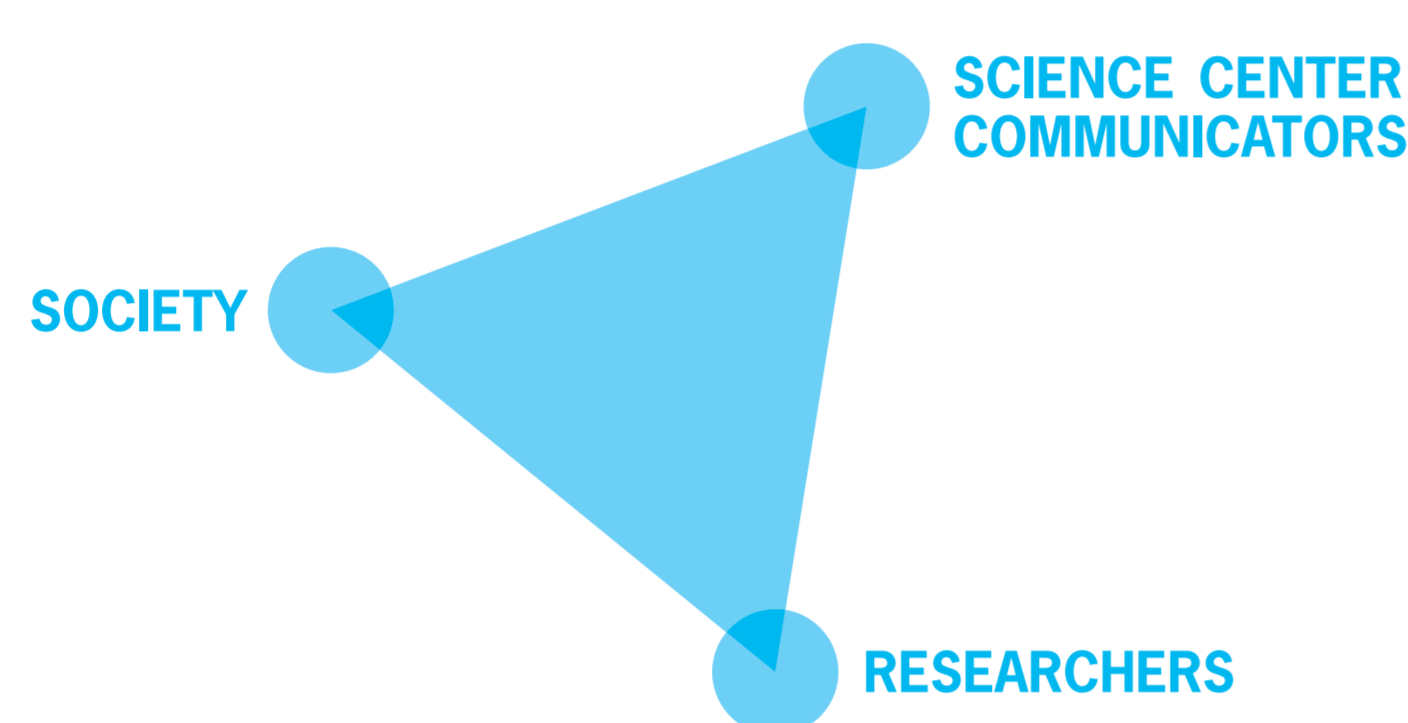
Regina M. S. Sousa¹, Pedro Pombo^{1,2}
¹Fábrica Ciência Viva Science Centre, Aveiro, Portugal
²Department of Physics, University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
regina.sousa@ua.pt, ppombo@ua.pt

INTRODUCTION

“Encontro com o Cientista” is an activity within the weekly program of Escola Ciência Viva – Aveiro, an educational project by the University of Aveiro, Ciência Viva, and the Municipality of Aveiro, dedicated to Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM).

The activity consists of informal talks between students (nine years old) and researchers from different areas of knowledge. The objective is to promote dialogue in order to show researchers' daily activities, and the importance of their work. Additionally, it seeks to demystify stereotypes associated with the figure of a scientist, as well as to motivate students to pursue careers in science and research.

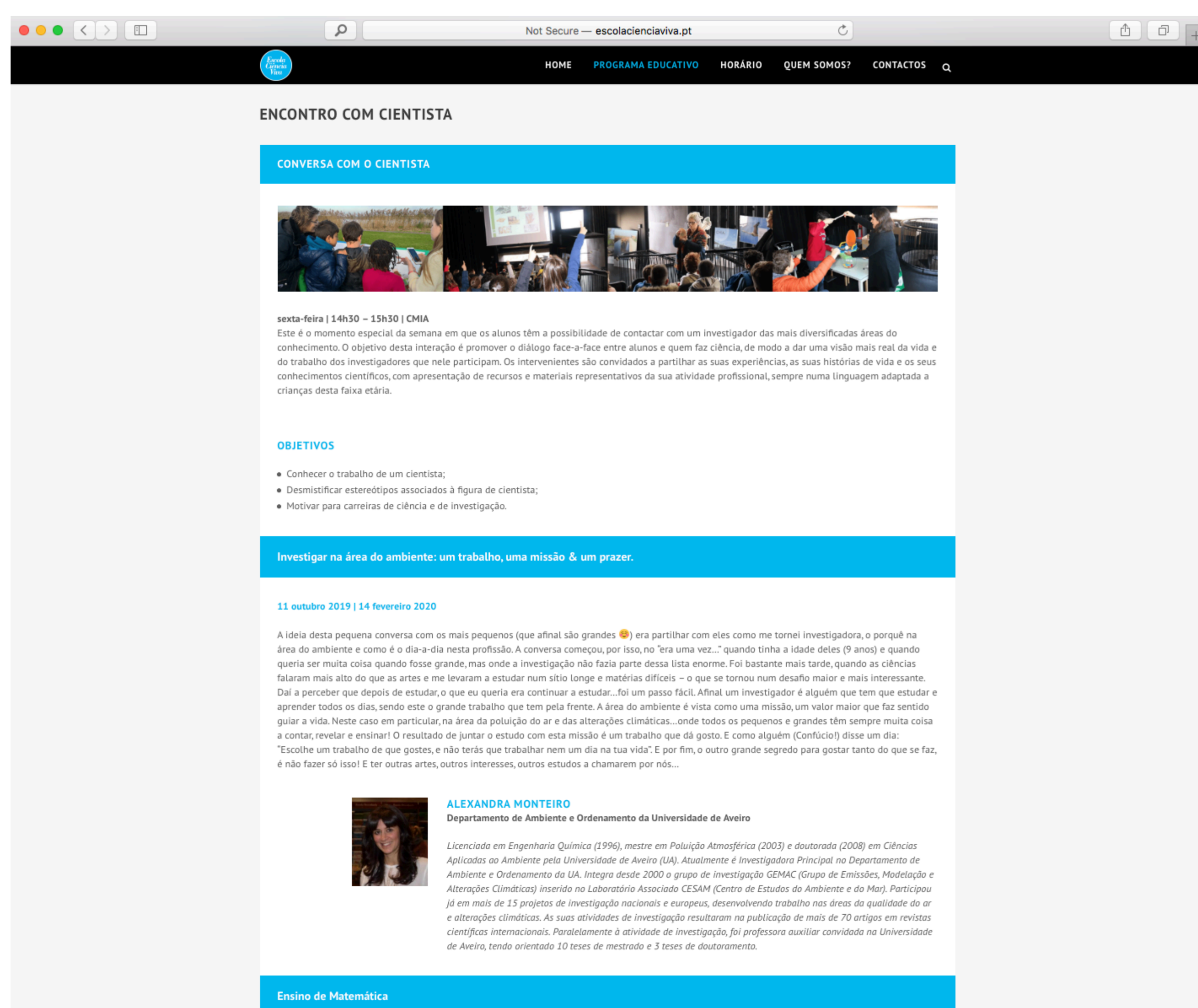
MODEL



DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

	Timeline	Description	Work Package	Team
Development	Phase 1	Selection of a general theme	Theme	Fábrica Science Centre
	Phase 2	Contact with laboratories and research units and invitation for researchers collaboration	Researchers	Fábrica Science Centre, University of Aveiro
	Phase 3	Contact with partners and invitation to be the host of the project	Society	Fábrica Science Centre, Municipality of Aveiro
	Phase 4	Selection of a research topic (by researchers) and abstract submission	Topic	University of Aveiro
	Phase 5	Scheduling the science talks with all researchers	Scheduling	Fábrica Science Centre, University of Aveiro
Implementation	Phase 6	Logistic, space and organisation of all science talks	Organisation	Fábrica Science Centre, Municipality of Aveiro
	Phase 7	Science event implementation with researchers and support of facilitators	Event	Fábrica Science Centre, University of Aveiro
	Phase 8	Dissemination of project through social media, internet and media.	Dissemination	Fábrica Science Centre, University of Aveiro

“Encontro com o Cientista” was held from October 2019 to March 2020, every Friday afternoon, at CMA – Centro Municipal de Interpretação Ambiental.



Escola Ciência Viva - Aveiro website, where all sessions are presented.

RESULTS

Session	Title of science talk	Scientific area	School (Aveiro)	Nr of students
1 e 13	Research in the area of the environment: a job, a mission & a pleasure.	environment	EB Barrocas/EB Sarrazola/EB Areais	55
2 e 16	Mathematics Teaching	mathematics	EB Esgueira/EB Solposto	55
3 e 4	Light and Holography	physics	EB Oliveirinha/EB Glória	48
5	Fire resistance in buildings	civil engineering	EB Eixo	31
6	Biodegradable materials for food packaging	biochemistry	EB Glória	21
7	Find EduPARK and experience augmented reality!	science education	EB Esgueira	24
8	Biochemistry in the concept of circular food economy	biochemistry	EB Verdemilho	26
9	Medicines as contaminants and the use of materials in their removal.	chemistry	EB Vera cruz	26
10	Are we going to build a better city?	urban planning	EB Vera Cruz	26
11	Immunology	medical sciences	EB Vera cruz	26
12	Oceans and Biodiversity	biology	EB Barrocas/EB S Jacinto	25
14	Biodegradable materials	chemistry	EB de Esgueira	20
15	The quality of the air we breathe	environment	EB Azurva + EB Presa	32
Total of participants				415
Total of sessions				16



Photos with examples of some sessions.

CONCLUSIONS

- › We believe that this project engaged the young students (nine years old) into science and technology and motivated them to pursue careers in science and research.
- › The variety of subjects enabled to attract different students and showed the diversity of the research being carried out at University of Aveiro.
- › It is intended to continue this project for the next year, in order to give more students the opportunity to contact with science and technology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Regina M. S. Sousa is grateful for a research grant provided by FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology (SFRH/BGCT/143094/2018).