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### The Invasion of Microplastics

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# The Invasion of Microplastics

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## Abstract

The project consisted of a market study, in order to know the attitudes of the inhabitants of Vila Nova de Famalicão (VNF) towards the use of plastic, and to measure the knowledge of the population of VNF about microplastics. Students of various grades that were interested in the theme carried out the project. The main goal was to change mentalities and consequent practices. It was concluded that, although the inhabitants of VNF know what microplastics are and what is at their origin, they do not reveal much concern in changing their daily practices because practical solutions are still not implemented.

## Keywords

Mentalities; microplastics; plastics; pollution; practices; solutions.



# The Invasion of Microplastics

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### Resumo Abstract

The project consisted of a market study, in order to know the attitudes of the inhabitants of Vila Nova de Famalicão (VNF) towards the use of plastic and to measure the knowledge of the population of VNF about microplastics. The project was carried out by students of various cycles, interested in the theme, in order to change mentalities and consequent practices. It was concluded that, although they know what microplastics are and what is at their origin, they do not reveal much concern in changing their daily practices because practical solutions aren't implemented yet.

**Key-words:** microplastics, plastics, pollution, practices, mentalities, solutions

## Sentir Feel

As students became involved in environmental activities, they realized that the problem of microplastics reached terrifying proportions. They understood that the awareness of VNF inhabitants about the changes that microplastics already operate in our organism is fundamental in order to change their consumption habits. In addition to the information collected through digital research, the students also contacted the environmental awareness office of the municipality and elements belonging to environmental associations.



## Imaginar Imagine

The students chose to do a study among VNF population and developed a survey, contemplating different age groups. The objective of the questions was to understand how the inhabitants are aware of the evil that microplastics cause and their origin. In the end they were able to alert the population to the problem. The students had the participation of several teachers and the environmental awareness office of the municipality.



## Criar Create

The solution to the problem can be as simple as raising the inhabitants' awareness of the severity of contamination by microplastics, and consequently, replacing plastics with other materials. We speak about simple daily gestures, such as always using the same sturdy shopping bag and drinking tap water. The students made a street campaign in order to reach a reasonable number of inhabitants.



## Partilhar Share

At the end of the study, students presented the results publicly, where representatives of environmental associations, journalists and the municipality were present. Students keep on working on strong anti-plastic street campaigns in VNF to reach out to the whole community. And when young people engage in a serious problem that affects everyone, anything is possible!

