

115

2016



Network Portugal
WE SUPPORT



econews
OF SUSTAINABILITY

COP21 - Progress and Challenges
Air Quality in Europe in 2015
Volunteering and the Millennium Development Goals

FOLLOW US ON

facebook



INDEX

3 SUSTAINABLE NEWS

- Meeting on "Governance, Digitization and Sustainable Development" in Guimarães
- Matosinhos with Good Energy
- Viana do Castelo's schools receive awareness raising action about water
- Suldouro begins container delivery phase at the start of the year

5 ARTICLE

- COP21 - Progress and Challenges

6 CURRENT EVENTS

- Volunteers plant 2.500 native trees in Santa Maria da Feira
- Green Future at ECOMONDO
- FIMAI/ECOMONDO
- Air Quality in Europe in 2015

- 500 children die in Sub-Saharan Africa each day due to lack of water and sanitation
- UN Women promotes the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals
- New report from the Environment European Agency analyzes the transport pressure on the environment
- Volunteering and Millennium Development Goals
- European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Raw Materials launches new call

9 LAW

10 AGENDA / CREDITS

FOREWORD

Challenges in the fight against climate change

Climate change and energy are two of the most important challenges societies will have to face over the next years. According to several studies, the high rates of greenhouse gases emissions are leading to extreme situations, and the rhythm of global warming is increasing, which means that the time countries have to act on the issue of climate change is becoming scarce. The Conference of the Parties (COP21) recognised the importance of limiting the increase of global temperature of planet below 2°C compared to pre-industrial era. The new global climate agreement signed in Paris implies thus a review of climate and energy policy in order to comply with the goals established.

For the first time, all countries of the world were involved in the fight of climate change through the Paris Agreement. The goals are ambitious, but if it is found its fulfilment, they will reduce significantly the global warming impact on the planet.



SUSTAINABLE NEWS

Meeting on “Governance, Digitization and Sustainable Development” in Guimarães

United Nations University

On 7 and 8 December, Guimarães received a meeting on Governance, Digitization and Sustainable Development, promoted by United Nations University, an entity that has established an operational unity on Electronic Governance at the University of Minho.

The event brought together about 30 researchers, leaders and policy makers to discuss the most appropriated way through which the goals affixed with regard to Sustainable Development Goals 16 (SDG 16) “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” could be implemented and



measured in order to utilize the potential (and addressing the negative impact) of digitization in governance to the Sustainable Development. The meeting also discussed how the strategies “Reduction of Administrative Burdens” and “Public Service Delivery in Specific Contexts” - essential to achieve the SDG 16.6 “Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels” - could be supported by digital technology. The meeting results will be compiled in a report, which will then edited by UNU-EGOV.

[UNU-EGOV](#)

Matosinhos with Good Energy

Matosinhos Municipality

In the energy field, Portugal is characterized by having high external dependence and carbon intensity as well as low levels of efficiency, importing about 85% of primary energy, mostly from fossil sources. The inefficient use of energy is a high burden to the country, from an economic, social and environmental point of view. In this context, characterized by a strong concern to reduce CO₂ emissions, it is essential to implement solutions that allow the minimization of the energy bill and investment incentives in alternative energies.

In order to provide answers to these issues, the Municipality of Matosinhos is implementing an Action Plan for Energy Efficiency of the Municipality, which includes a set of measures, namely the use of public lighting systems with better energy and environmental performance. The modernization of public lighting systems involves the installation of 131 luminous flux regulators, which will cover 12.287 points of light. With the installation of these systems, it will be possible to reduce the consumption of electric energy as well as the CO₂ emissions associated with it, and, consequently, the reduction of energy costs associated with the installation of public lighting. Thus, the amount spared can be applied in other areas needing intervention, for the benefit of citizens.

[MATOSINHOS MUNICIPALITY](#)



Viana do Castelo's schools receive awareness raising action about water

Municipal Sanitation Services of Viana do Castelo

In Viana do Castelo, the Municipal Sanitation Services of Viana do Castelo (Serviços Municipalizados de Saneamento Básico de Viana do Castelo - SMSBVC) are the entity responsible for supplying water for human consumption, guaranteeing a quality service. The quality of water supplied by SMSBVC to the citizens of Viana do Castelo is guaranteed throughout the supply system, which comprises a total of 780 km of public water supply. SMSBVC regularly monitor over one hundred parameters using accredited laboratories, with constant monitoring by Viana do Castelo's Health Authority and by the Water and Waste Services Regulation Authority.

Despite the extension of the public network and the constant monitoring by the Municipal Sanitation Services, which ensures the water's quality and potability, about 7.000 houses in Viana do Castelo are not connected to the public network, mainly because they are supplied from domestic wells or holes. The water from wells and holes is more susceptible to contamination, and the lack of monitoring or quality control increases the probability of consuming improper water.

To raise awareness of the importance

of consuming water from the public network supply, the municipality will implement a set of awareness raising actions, one of which is the theatre play "Doctor Drop". This initiative is directed to the school community, and aims to explain to young students why it's important to drink water that has been treated and monitored, avoiding the problems that can arise from consuming water from private wells and holes. Thus, children will be a vehicle for the message, allowing it to reach a wider audience.

[SMSBVC](#)



Suldouro begins container delivery phase at the start of the year

[Suldouro](#)

The door-to-door selective waste collection project, a Suldouro initiative, aims to simplify the recyclable waste separation process, to promo-

te waste recovery in an environmentally responsible manner and to reduce the amount of undifferentiated waste sent directly to landfill, thus contributing to increase the selective separation and recycling rates in the Municipalities of Vila Nova de Gaia and Santa Maria da Feira.



The container distribution phase will start early this year and will entail the delivery of three containers for selective deposition of paper/cardboard, plastic/metal and glass. Citizens living in individual houses will receive 3 containers of 140 liters. In buildings, citizens will receive common containers of 800 liters. Over the course of two months, awareness teams will be on the field, delivering containers to citizens included in the project and promoting good practices for proper waste separation.

[SULDouro](#)

"DID YOU KNOW THAT..."

More than 500 million children live in areas where floods are extremely frequent and about 160 million live in areas of severe drought? This leaves these children highly exposed to the impacts of climate change.

[UNICE](#)



HIGHLIGHT PUB

2016 - A new year to act for a healthier, hunger-free and sustainable world.



ARTICLE

COP21 - Progress and Challenges

The United Nations Climate Change Conference 2015, also known as COP21, was held in Paris from November 20th to December 12th. It was the 21st annual session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the 1992 Convention of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 11th session on the Meeting of Parties of 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

The agreement reached at the end of the Conference, for the first time in history, brings together all nations of the world into a single contract in combating climate change. Reaching a consensus between nearly 200 countries on the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases is considered, by many, as an achievement in itself.



SOURCE: COP21 Paris

Briefly, the measures established in the agreement are:

- Peaking greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and achieve a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century;
- Keeping the global temperature rise "well below" 2 °C and make efforts to limit it to 1.5 °C;
- Review progress every five years;
- \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020, with a commitment to additional financing in the future.

Even with these commitments, global temperatures may come to rise as much

as 2.7 °C, but the agreement establishes a route in order to accelerate progress. The objective of avoiding what scientists regard as dangerous and irreversible levels of climate change - thought to be achieved with an increase of about 2 °C above pre-industrial times - is central to the agreement.

The world is almost halfway to an increase of 1 °C in global temperature, and many countries advocate a more ambitious target of 1.5 °C - including leaders of low-lying countries facing an unsustainable increase in sea level in a warmer world. The desire for a more ambitious goal was kept in the agreement - with the promise of a greater effort to limit global temperatures even further, to 1.5 °C.

In addition to the agreement, another important aspect of COP21 was the global mobilization achieved around the topic of climate change, thereby enhancing the information, activism and taking action of the general population. From now on, each country should establish its own goals in order to achieve the set targets, gathering to balance in 2025.

[COP21](#)



SOURCE: COP21 Paris

"DISCOVER THE OCEANS"

IS A CONTEST DIRECTED TO SCHOOLS
AROUND THE COUNTRY, THAT INTENDS TO
PROMOTE OCEANS LITERACY.

The four winning stories will be illustrated by talented
national and international artists and published in
a comic book.

Proposals could be submitted by MARCH 31
for oceanos@formatoverde.pt

+ INFO

oceanos@formatoverde.pt
www.emepc.pt/pt/kit-do-mar



Promotor:
formatoverde

Cofinancing:
MAREANOVA
grants

Supporting the dissemination:



DESCOBRIR os
OCEANOS

formatoverde

CURRENT EVENTS

Volunteers plant 2.500 native trees in Santa Maria da Feira

AMORIM

In November, a plantation initiative of 2.425 native trees at PERM - Materials Recovery Facility at the Pigeiros Business Park took place. It was the first reforestation action carried out in the Municipality of Santa Maria da Feira, where the main cork industry is based.

The initiative, promoted by Corticeira Amorim in partnership with Quercus' Common Forest Project, uses native trees. These are more resistant than species that have been introduced in the Portuguese territory, since they are better adapted to the territory's soil conditions and climate. This way, this kind of trees will have an important role in CO₂ retention, in the regulation of hydrological cycle of the soils and in the preservation of biodiversity.

The amount raised from the Green Cork recycling program will be used to finance the preservation of Portuguese native forest.

AMORIM

Green Future at ECOMONDO

ECOMONDO

In the 19th edition of Ecomondo, which took place in Rimini between 3 and 6 November, the presence of industry and trade members from around the world in several of the exhibitions gave the event a truly international dimension. The International Trade Fair of Material and Energy Recovery and Sustainable Development brought together 1.200 companies and more than 1.000 speakers, which demonstrated the importance of an advanced industrial and scientific system.



During Ecomondo, participants discussed issues such as waste and bio waste, water, air, bio economy, smart cities and research and innovation. With a total of 103.514 visitors in the four days of the event, participation increased by 1.68% compared to the edition of 2014, indicating that the event is a reference at an international level, promoting and establishing relationships with new markets.

ECOMONDO

FIMAI/ECOMONDO

FIMAI

The 17th edition of FIMAI - International Industrial Environment and Sustainability Fair, considered to be the most important environmental fair of Latin America, took place between 11 and 13 November. With around 100 exhibitors, the fair focused on the main innovations from national and international markets, with the exhibition of innovations, trends, equipments, incentive policies, green economy and technologies that contribute to sustainable development. The event, now a partner of Rimini Fiera, responsible for Ecomondo, has received thousands of participants over its three days, confirming the development of a promising segment of sustainable solutions for the productive sector at the global level. At the same time, the XVII SIMAI - International Seminar on Industrial Environment and Sustainability was also held. This event brought together national and international experts presenting an overview for the environmental sector and sustainability, with emphasis on trends, integrated solutions, innovations and success stories that can help professionals implement good environmental practices in day to day business. The event also featured parallel workshops, which were held over 62 lectures on various topics, namely reducing emissions of greenhouse gases,

destination of solid and liquid waste, energy efficiency, wastewater treatment and recovery of contaminated areas.

With a high level of qualification of the visitors, the fair reached the perspectives and provided great interactivity between key market agents at global level.

FIMAI

Air Quality in Europe in 2015

Environmental European Agency

The "Air quality in Europe" report, developed by the European Environment Agency, presents an updated overview of air quality in Europe, analyzing progresses made in fulfilling the requirements of the Directives related to air quality.

The report helps readers get to know the latest results and estimates about human exposition to air pollutants, as well as an overview of the effects of air pollution both in human health and ecosystems.

This analysis concludes that air quality policies have seen improvements, and that the reduction of emissions has overall improved air quality in Europe. However, substantial challenges and significant impacts on human health and in the environment remain. A large proportion of

European populations and ecosystems are still exposed to air pollution exceeding both European standards and Air Quality Guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In what concerns air quality, effective policies require action and cooperation at the global, European, national and local levels, that are able to reach the majority of economic sectors and to involve the public.

EEA

500 children die in Sub-Saharan Africa each day due to lack of water and sanitation

UNICEF

During a conference in West and Central Africa on financing for water and sanitation, UNICEF stated that about 180.000 children under five die each year from diseases related to water, sanitation and improper hygiene, which is equivalent to an average of about 500 children per day.

With the rapid population growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, which nearly doubled in the past 25 years, and with an increase of only about 6% in access to water, efforts to combat this problem by governments may not be sufficient, making the situation worsen dramatically.

Funding from the Overseas Develop-

ment Aid (ODA) to the water sector, sanitation and hygiene is unbalanced and insufficient, with most of this amount channelled to countries that already show good results in this sector. Within the framework of the Innovative Financing for Water Sanitation & Hygiene conference, UNICEF invited 24 governments in the sub-region to meet with some of the leading investment banks, international organizations, companies and experts. The goal was to find new mechanisms to raise the estimated amount of 20 to 30 billion dollars that the industry will need to ensure universal access to water and sanitation in West and Central Africa.

UNICEF



UN Women promotes the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

UN Women

The UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality announced the donation of 7.26 million dollars, to be distributed by 24 innovative programs in six regions, namely in East and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, America and the Caribbean, Arab States, Asia and Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia.



The selection of programs is the result of a competitive process, where almost 1,400 applications from

women's civil society organizations were received, and which intends to boost the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 28 countries. UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality will provide technical and financial assistance in order to maximize the impact and sustainability of these interventions.

The programs address global concerns and aim to respond to issues such as the limited number of women in decision-making positions in the political and economic spheres; barriers that prevent women from accessing and controlling land, credits and resources; decent work and

gender pay gap; and discriminatory provisions in laws and policies. It is estimated that these initiatives will

reach at least 325.000 direct beneficiaries, of which 45% come from poor countries and approximately 53% of fragile states. More than half of these initiatives will involve men and boys as strategic partners in promoting women's rights and gender equality.

The implementation will start in January 2016 and aim to boost economic empowerment, leadership and political participation of women.

[UN Women](#)

New report from the Environment European Agency analyzes the transport pressure on the environment

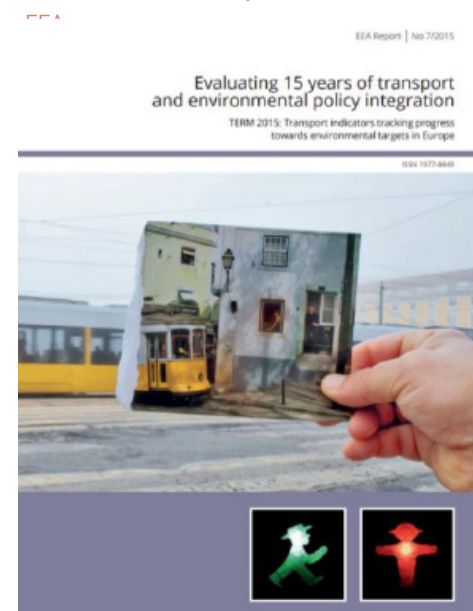
European Environment Agency

The new report from Environment European Agency, titled "Evaluating 15 years of transport and environmental policy integration", analyzes the evolution of the transport sector (freight and passengers) and its pressures on the environment since the year 2000, including the impact of economic recession in 2008.

Based on the latest data, this report evaluates key tendencies, measures and overall progress in the fulfillment of political goals. Therefore, the report concludes that the reduction on greenhouse gases emissions from transport will come mainly from pro-

gress made on fuel efficiency and, at a lower scale, from the use of alternative fuels.

The report further states that reducing emissions from the transport sector will require technological and political solutions that encourage significant behavioural changes, including the proper accounting of transport externalities and planning approaches that promote the use of sustainable transportation.



Volunteering and Millennium Development Goals

UN Volunteers

The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has shown that sustainable development requires approaches that complement technical, financial and institutional measures. For these goals to be achieved, it is necessary for everyone to be involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes in order to facilitate interaction among stakeholders. In this context, volunteers are essential tools for this process.



After the experience with the MDGs, it is observed that volunteers can be an important driving force for the ful-

fillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:

- Volunteers provide basic services, help in the transfer of skills and promote the exchange of good practices, and also add international and national valuable expertise. They can also provide technical support and improve skills in various areas.

- Volunteers can reach people that are difficult to access, in order to bring their views and knowledge into collective actions. Voluntary organizations can serve as intermediaries of commitment, linking government strategies and initiatives with voluntary community action.

- Volunteers facilitate behaviour change by raising awareness and inspiring others.

- Volunteers can help measure progress in implementing the MDGs by collecting data, providing knowledge and supporting participatory forms of planning and monitoring.

[UNV](#)

European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Raw Materials launches new call

[European Commission](#)

The main objective of European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Raw Materials is to contribute to the goals of 2020 EU Industrial Policy - increase industry participation to 20% of GDP - and the objectives of the "Innovation Union" and "Efficient Europe in Resources" initiatives, ensuring sustainable supply of raw materials for the European economy, while simultaneously increasing the benefits to society.

However, in order to be successful, the EIP depends on the active involvement of European actors in the public, private and academic sectors in this initiative.

Therefore, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) for Raw Materials launched a call which requires the recognition of several commitments to action, titled Raw Materials Commitments, in which the main goal is to mobilize and gather a substantial

part of the European community. Additionally, one of the primary goals is to establish and maintain international networks, boosting success in tenders launched in Horizon 2020. In 2015's call for commitments of Horizon 2020, the overall success rate of projects submitted to raw materials was 21%.

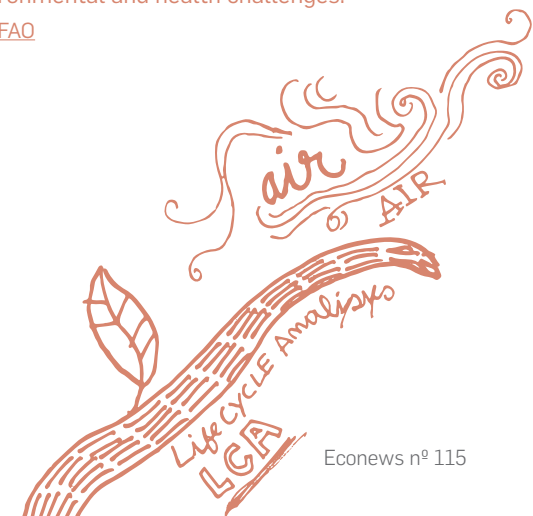
All the information about the contest can be found at [EIP on Raw Materials](#) and submission forms can be submitted online until March 1, 2016.

[EC](#)

“DID YOU KNOW THAT...”

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses? Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said that these foods contribute significantly to promote food security and, at the same time, combat hunger, malnutrition and environmental and health challenges.

[FAO](#)



LAW

Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015

Emissions of pollutants into the air have been significantly reduced over the past decades, but pollution levels are still problematic in many parts of Europe, and the EU citizens continue to be exposed to air pollutants, which potentially compromise their health and wellness. In order to ensure a healthy environment for all, it is necessary that local measures are complemented by appropriate policies at national and European level. Thus, efforts are needed to achieve full compliance with EU legislation on air quality and the definition of strategic goals and actions beyond 2020.

The (EU) 2015/2193 Directive establishes emission control rules to the atmosphere of sulphur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and dust from medium combustion plants, reducing therefore, emissions to the atmosphere and the potential risks to human health and the environment arising from such emissions, establishing the rules for monitoring emissions of carbon monoxide (CO).

[Official Journal of the European Union](#)



22-24 January 2016

National Seminar Eco-Escolas 2016

Leiria, Portugal
ecoescolas.abae.pt

26 January 2016

Climate Change and Agriculture

Lisbon, Portugal
cap.pt

27-29 January 2016

TerraTec

Leipzig, Germany
terratec-leipzig.com

2 February 2016

Accelerate towards Circular Economy

Lisbon, Portugal
pontoverdeopeninnovation.com

21-26 February 2016

Ocean Sciences Meeting 2016

New Orleans, United States of America
osm.agu.org/2016

6-9 March 2016

Eco-Bio 2016

Rotterdam, Holland
ecobioconference.com



FOLLOW HERE **FORMATO VERDE**

vimeo

YouTube



CREDITS

Ownership Entity:

Formato Verde – Communication,
Training and Content
Management Ltd.

VAT Number:

506083357

Writing and Editing:

Formato Verde – Communication,
Training and Content
Management Ltd.

R. São Roque da Lameira, 2129,
4350-317 Porto, Portugal

Publication Director:

Miguel Laranjo

Registration Number:

126026

Frequency:

Bimестrial

Legal Deposit:

ISSN 2182-0279

Tel. +351 229 352 321

Fax. +351 229 352 322

econews@formatoverde.pt

formatoverde.pt

Cofinancing

