

Report on the activity in the framework of the European Inventor Network



Name of the alumnus who implemented the activity

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Short description of the activity

The activity (EXPO FCT 2024) was an open day primarily aimed at pre-university youth but open to the entire community, where visitors had the opportunity to participate in demonstrations/activities in the fields of Science and Engineering. This involved the Departments, Research Centres, and Students' Union Groups across various scientific, technological, and pedagogical areas.

EXPO FCT was an excellent opportunity for visitors to have direct contact with university students, faculty, and researchers, thus experiencing the university life of one of the largest and most prestigious schools of Science and Engineering in the country. Throughout the day, visitors had access to experiments, laboratory visits, and many other activities designed to encourage curiosity and interest in the various careers and professions in the fields taught here. The importance of intellectual property was also highlighted. It was also an excellent way to showcase the academic environment of the Caparica University Campus, which has unique characteristics in the country.

The organization of this activity involved the 18 departments of the faculty and its 16 research centres, with approximately 200 activities conducted, also featuring the participation of Students' Union groups. Over 1,000 volunteers, including professors, researchers, students, and staff, were involved in carrying out this open day.

Date and place of the activity

10 April 2024, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, organized at the Faculty of Science and Technology of NOVA University Lisbon, Campus de Caparica, Almada, Portugal

Audience (number and age of the participants)

5435 students and around 100 secondary school teachers, representing over 75 schools from various districts across the continent, participated in this event, with their attendance recorded at check-in. The visiting students were mostly pre-university students, in the last two years of high school. There were also many other visitors, who were not counted since it was an open day and many community members visited the campus without necessarily stopping by the check-in desk.

Outcomes and achievement

In this activity, we had the presence of teachers and students from secondary schools not only from the district where the Caparica Campus is located (Almada-Setúbal) but also from many schools in various regions across the country. It was an activity not only at the district level but also with national reach.

We believe we have achieved the main objectives, namely, to showcase the higher education offerings and to inspire young people in the fields of Science, Engineering, and Technology, encouraging them to dedicate themselves to these crucial areas for society - the areas with which a sustainable future is built.

We received very positive feedback from this day, both through numerous testimonials from visitors and through subsequent contacts we've had with the schools and students who visited us. The event had a very wide dissemination, both in local media (newspapers) and on the main national television channels.

Recommendations

This is a large-scale event that involves significant logistics and has a considerable cost. The partnership with prestigious institutions, which are relevant to an engineering school, such as the European Patent Office, is a great asset for us. It is essential in future editions to continue having prestigious partners and, if possible, expand these types of partnerships to enhance the experience of our visitors.

At our institution, and research centres, we also carry out smaller promotional events (outreach around 100 participants), more focused on specific technologies or technological areas, where it is also very important to have prestigious partnerships. We hope to continue our partnership with the EPO, which greatly honours us, either in big events or smaller.

Attachments





