



## ENGAGEMENT

Embodying  
sustainability  
values

## Portuguese schools and practical activities

At the Portuguese demonstration sites, engagement was achieved by actively involving students, teachers, and the broader community in practical sustainability activities rather than focusing on theoretical discussions. In both Portuguese schools, engagement strategies relied on participatory actions that connected classroom learning with concrete environmental goals. For example, both schools organised waste separation competitions in which classes and groups were encouraged to reduce, reuse and recycle materials. These friendly contests motivated students while triggering deeper discussions on the environmental impacts of waste production. In the first school, the competition was complemented by the installation of new recycling bins and awareness sessions, whereas in the second, it was integrated into a broader set of activities on waste and circular economy. In both schools, students acted as agents of change, inspiring their peers and teachers to adopt more sustainable practices.

Beyond waste-related activities, engagement was also promoted through experiential learning and partnerships with external entities. In the first Portuguese school, the “Energy Route” initiative, developed in collaboration with ADENE, allowed students to explore practical aspects of energy efficiency through interactive sessions. Similarly, in the second school, the same initiative promoted awareness of energy consumption and renewable energy sources, helping students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world energy management. These experiences demonstrated how local partnerships can significantly strengthen engagement when sustainability topics are made visible and tangible in everyday school life.

At the higher education level, one project partner, a university from Portugal, fostered engagement by initiatives, such as “Técnico Makes the Difference” and the “Bio Técnico” project, encouraged students and staff to reduce waste, improve recycling and promote sustainable food practices on campus. Through contests, workshops and voluntary actions, IST turned awareness into commitment, helping to build a shared culture of environmental responsibility within the academic community.