



Escola Secundária de Arouca  
Arouca - Portugal



Comenius multilateral school partnership  
SoLIFE Project

## *Civic Action Project*

### *Mini-guide*

**Title:** “Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one”

**Argument :** There’s only 3% fresh water in the whole world.

75% of our body is water and we can’t live without it. So, we should use it wisely and save as much as we can.

**Aims:** Rising people’s awareness about wrong habits; consumption figures; good practices.

Reduce the community’s water consumption

**Duration:** 8 months (May-December)

**Target group:** The school community

#### **Resources:**

**Material:** water, water company bill, paper, computers, pen disks, paper, note-book, pens, parents’ permission for the students and family involvement.

**Human resources:** Second language teachers, science teachers, ICT teachers, students,

## Activities and main steps:

### Step 1:

- Selecting the classes to work on the project;

### Step 2:

- In classes:
  - Brainstorming about the topic in hand (environmental problems on our planet and the lack of safe drinking water).
  - Doing some activities for the students to expand their vocabulary.
- Making a questionnaire to collect information about:
  - a) How much the students know about the amount of fresh water available on our planet and the;
  - b) The students' motivation to get involved in the project.
  - c) How much water they spend monthly at home.
- Getting the parents' permission for the students to get involved in the project.

(Annex 1)

### Step 3:

Making a chart to register the global data taken from the questionnaire on water consumption. (Annex 2)

- Analyzing the answers on the questionnaire:
  - Selecting the families who are willing to get involved in the project
  - Identifying the families who own a well and cannot participate in the project.
- Making a chart to register the amount of water spent by each student/ family before getting involved in the project and a few months later.

(Annex 3)

### Step 5:

- Making a list of procedures on how to save water;
- Analyzing all those procedures with the students;
- Each student/ family selects the actions they will be engaged in for 8 months.

(annex 4)

### Step 6:

- Registering on the chart the families' new data on water consumption;
- Identifying the number of families who could save some water after signing the commitment.
- Identifying the procedures that were harder to implement.

(Annex 5)

### Step 7

- Evaluation of the project (What went well, what went wrong, how it could be improved): writing a report.

## Continuity (follow-up)

At the end of the school year the students will answer a questionnaire about how much they still remember from the project and in what way it contributed to reduce the water consumption at home.



## ANNEX 1

### Assessing students' motivation to get involved in organizing and implementing the Civic Action Project:

#### “Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one”

Name: ..... Class:..... Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

#### Questionnaire:

#### How much do you know about our planet?

1. How much water is there on earth?

- 30% of the total surface.
- 50% of the total surface.
- 70% of the total surface.

2. How much of the water can be found in oceans?

- 37%.
- 97%.
- 67%.

3. How much freshwater is there available?

- 2,59%.
- 25,9%.
- 35,9%.

4. How much water is suitable for drinking?

- 3,7%.
- 2,5%.
- 1%.

	Very much	A little	Not very much
5. Are you worried about water shortages?			
6. Do you spend a lot of water?			
7. Do you usually try to save water?			
8. Are you interested in reducing your water bill?			
9. Would you be willing to cooperate in an experiment about reducing water consumption?			

10. How much was your last water bill? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How many m<sup>3</sup> water did you spend last month? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you be willing to cooperate in an experiment about reducing water consumption?

Yes  No

Thank you for your cooperation,

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## ACTION CIVIQUE: PROJET EAU POTABLE: UNE RESSOURCE PRECIEUSE...

### QUESTIONNAIRE ELEVES ET FAMILLES

1. Combien d'eau y a-t-il dans notre planète?  
 30% de la surface totale.  
 50% de la surface totale.  
 70% de la surface totale.
  
2. Combien d'eau y a-t-il dans l'océan?  
 37%.  
 97%.  
 67%.
  
3. Combien d'eau douce y a-t-il dans notre planète?  
 2,59%.  
 25,9%.  
 35,9%.
  
4. Combien d'eau potable y a-t-il dans notre planète?  
 3,7%.  
 2,5%.  
 1%.

	BEAUCOUP	PAS TROP	RIEN DU TOUT
1. Êtes-vous concernés avec la réduction d'eau?			
2. Est-ce que vous dépensez beaucoup d'eau?			
3. D'habitude vous essayez d'économiser de l'eau?			
4. Vous êtes intéressés à réduire votre facture d'eau?			
5. Êtes-vous disponibles à réduire votre consommation d'eau?			

6. Quelle a été la somme de votre consommation d'eau du mois passé ? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Combien de m<sup>3</sup> d'eau avez-vous consommé le mois passé? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Seriez-vous intéressés à collaborer dans une étude, menée par l'école, à propos de la consommation d'eau ?  
 Oui  Non

Merci beaucoup pour votre disponibilité,

Signature (élève) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (père, mère ou ...) \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNEX 2

### Questionnaire: How much do you know about our planet?

#### GLOBAL RESULTS

Questions:	Answers:	Nr of Students
1. How much water is there on earth?	30% of the total surface.	
	50% of the total surface.	
	70% of the total surface.	
2. How much of the water can be found in oceans?	37%.	
	97%.	
	67%.	
3. How much freshwater is there available?	2,59%.	
	25,9%.	
	35,9%.	
4. How much water is suitable for drinking?	3,7%.	
	2,5%.	
	1%.	

Questions:	Very much	A little	Not very much
5. Are you worried about water shortages?			
6. Do you spend a lot of water?			
7. Do you usually try to save water?			
8. Are you interested in reducing your water bill?			
9. Would you be willing to cooperate in an experiment about reducing water consumption?			

Questions:	Nr of Students
10. The students who have information about their last water bill.	
11. The students who have information about the m3 spent last month.	
12. The students willing to cooperate in the experiment.	
The families who own a well.	

## ANNEX 3

### *Civic Action Project*

“Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one /

«Eau potable: une ressource précieuse...»

### Families' water consumption

**Class: 7B**

STUDENTS /ÉLÈVES	m3 April	m3 Dec	m3 saved
Ana Catarina Moreira	11 m3		
Ana Catarina Gonçalves	15 m3		
Andreia Tavares	15 m3		
Cláudia Ferreira	10 m3		
Daniela Fernanda Oliveira	9 m3		
Helena Beatriz Teixeira	12 m 3		
José Pedro Santos	22 m3		
Miguel Alexandre Teixeira	5 m3		
Pedro Quintas	12 m3		
Pedro João Rocha	16 m3		
Sandra Raquel Silva	20 m3		

## *Civic Action Project*

“Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one /

«Eau potable: une ressource précieuse...»

### Families' water consumption

**Class: 7A / C / D**

<b>STUDENTS /ÉLÈVES</b>	<b>m3 April</b>	<b>m3 Dec</b>	<b>m3 saved</b>
Paulo Teixeira	10m3		
Matilde Silva	14m3		
Inês Rocha	7m3		
Ricardo Quintas	15m3		
Celeste Alves	7m3		
Mariana Garcia	11m3		
Mafalda Pinto	17m3		
Helder Costa	9m3		
Simão Brandão	14m3		
Mickael Vilar	8m3		
Óscar Gomes	8m3		
Ricardo Pinho	10m3		
Daniel Soares	8m3		
Joana Jordão	3m3		
Cristiana Rocha	5m3		
Mariana Pinto	3m3		
Sofia Gomes	5m3		
Tânia Teixeira	10m3		



## ANNEX 4

### Civic Action Project

#### “Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one”

**Saving water not only helps to protect the environment and reduce pollution but also cheapens your water bill. Our planet’s future is in your hands.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mark only the options which you are willing to respect.

<b>Procedures on how to save water at home:</b>	<b>Selection</b>
1. Take a shower instead of a bath.	
2. Have a bucket in the shower to collect the cold water before it gets warm.	
3. Take shorter showers.	
4. Turn off the tap while you are putting on soap during the shower.	
5. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.	
6. Put a plastic bottle (1,5 litres) in your toilet tank.	
7. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.	
8. Avoid using too much detergent washing the dishes/ clothes.	
9. Use your dishwasher and washing machine for only full loads	
10. Don't let the tap running while you wash vegetables.	
11. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and pavements around the house.	
12. Avoid washing the car.	
13. Check for leaks in taps, pipes and hoses.	
14. Water your lawn only when it needs it and always early in the morning.	
15. Turn off the water strainer before leaving home for long periods.	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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## **ACTION CIVIQUE: PROJET EAU POTABLE: UNE RESSOURCE PRÉCIEUSE...**

**Economiser de l'eau n'est pas seulement important pour la santé de la planète,  
mais aussi pour l'économie familiale. Le futur est à vous !**

**Signalez seulement les options que vous êtes disponibles à accomplir.**

<b>PROCEDURES POUR ECONOMISER DE L'EAU A LA MAISON</b>	
1. Préférez la douche au bain.	
2. Mettez un récipient dans la baignoire pour collecter l'eau avant qu'elle soit chaude.	
3. Prenez des douches rapides.	
4. Fermez le robinet quand vous passez le savon par le corps.	
5. Fermez le robinet quand vous vous brossez les dents.	
6. Mettez une bouteille (1,5 litres) dedans la caisse d'eau du wc.	
7. Quand vous faites la vaisselle, ne laissez pas l'eau couler tout le temps.	
8. Évitez l'utilisation excessive de détergent (vaisselle/vêtements).	
9. Utilisez vos machines à laver à charge pleine.	
10. Ne lavez pas vos végétales avec l'eau courante tout le temps.	
11. Utilisez le seau et évitez le tuyau pour laver les pavements autour de votre maison.	
12. Évitez de laver les voitures.	
13. Vérifiez s'il y a des fuites d'eau.	
14. Faites l'irrigation de votre jardin très tôt le matin et seulement quand il le faut.	
15. Fermez le compteur d'eau quand vous sortez pendant de longues périodes.	

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (élève) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (père, mère ou ...) \_\_\_\_\_

## ANNEX 5

### Civic Action Project

#### “Fresh Water: a precious resource... but not an endless one”

Procedures harder to implement:	Nr of families
1. Take a shower instead of a bath.	
2. Have a bucket in the shower to collect the cold water before it gets warm.	
3. Take shorter showers.	
4. Turn off the tap while you are putting on soap during the shower.	
5. Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.	
6. Put a plastic bottle (1,5 litres) in your toilet tank.	
7. When washing dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing.	
8. Avoid using too much detergent washing the dishes/ clothes.	
9. Use your dishwasher and washing machine for only full loads	
10. Don't let the tap running while you wash vegetables.	
11. Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and pavements around the house.	
12. Avoid washing the car.	
13. Check for leaks in taps, pipes and hoses.	
14. Water your lawn only when it needs it and always early in the morning.	
15. Turn off the water strainer before leaving home for long periods.	