

## CTT supports new edition of the "Ask an Ecologist" program

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For the third consecutive year, CTT - Correios de Portugal (Portuguese Postal Service) is supporting the "Ask an Ecologist" initiative, a partnership with SPECO - Portuguese Ecology Society (Portuguese Society of Ecology), which allows young students to clarify questions about ecology. Through this educational project, students in the 3rd cycle of primary school (7th, 8th, and 9th grades) are invited to ask SPECO scientists associated with the project ecology-related questions, using letters as a means of communication.

The initiative aims to stimulate curiosity about the world of ecological research and, in turn, make scientists more aware of their responsibility to share their work with young people, acting as role models.

Students send letters to SPECO with questions about ecology and the environment they would like answered. SPECO, in turn, forwards the letters to its members best suited to respond and then returns the answers to the students, also by letter.

The 23/24 school year edition featured the participation of 34 schools in the 3rd Cycle of

Basic Education, all belonging to the Ciência Viva Network, located throughout mainland Portugal. With several classes participating at each school, for a total of 120 registered classes, 314 questions were submitted and answered by SPECO scientists. This year, the initiative involved 49 volunteer ecologists.

Since the first edition, more than 750 questions from students have been answered, in an initiative that has seen an increasing number of schools and classes participating.

**Source: CTT Portugal Post**