



Mobilizing citizens and stakeholders: The Portuguese Network for Invasive Species Study and Management - InvECO

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Summary

Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species - InvECO

- Mission
- Members
- Survey
- Main initiatives

National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI

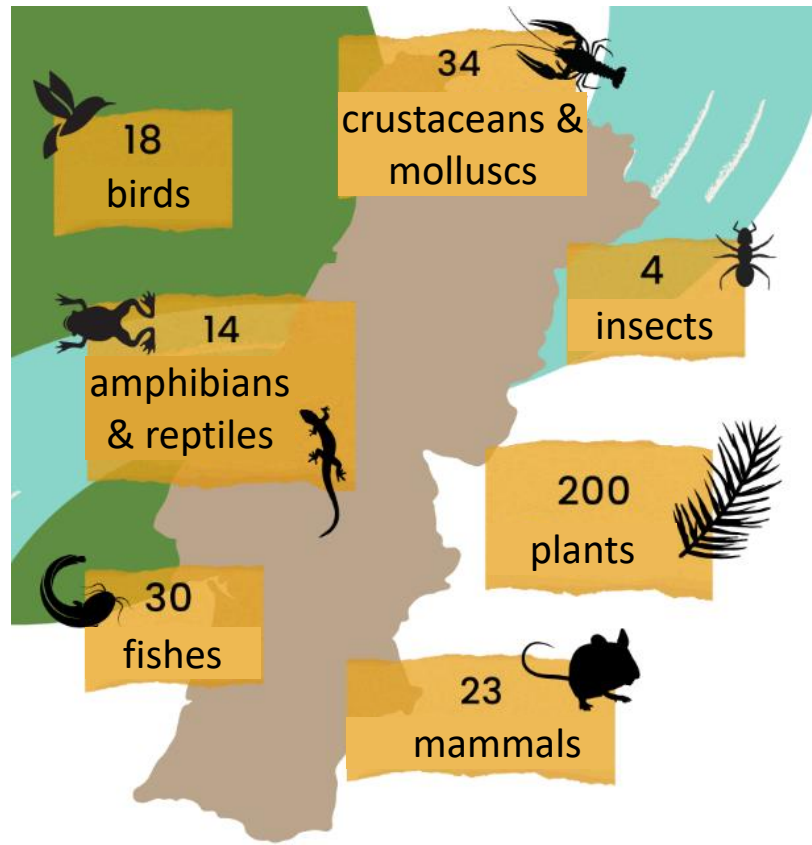
- Survey

Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays)

- Survey

Are you getting there? Way to go...

Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context



Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context



Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context



silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Peneda-Gerês National Park, north of Portugal

Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context

National dedicated legislation on IAS since 1999

Decreto-Lei n.º 92/2019

de 10 de julho

A Estratégia Nacional para a Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade para 2030 (ENCNB 2030). aprovada pela

...

O presente decreto-lei, ao proceder à revisão do regime instituído pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 565/99, de 21 de dezembro, concretiza uma das medidas previstas na ENCNB 2030, permitindo, simultaneamente, dar plena execução no ordenamento jurídico nacional ao regime instituído pelo Regulamento (UE) n.º 1143/2014, do Parlamento Europeu e do Conselho, de 22 de outubro de 2014, relativo à prevenção e gestão da introdução e propagação de espécies exóticas invasoras.

National List of Invasive Alien Species (LNEI)

Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014, 22 October 2014

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1263
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1262
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1203

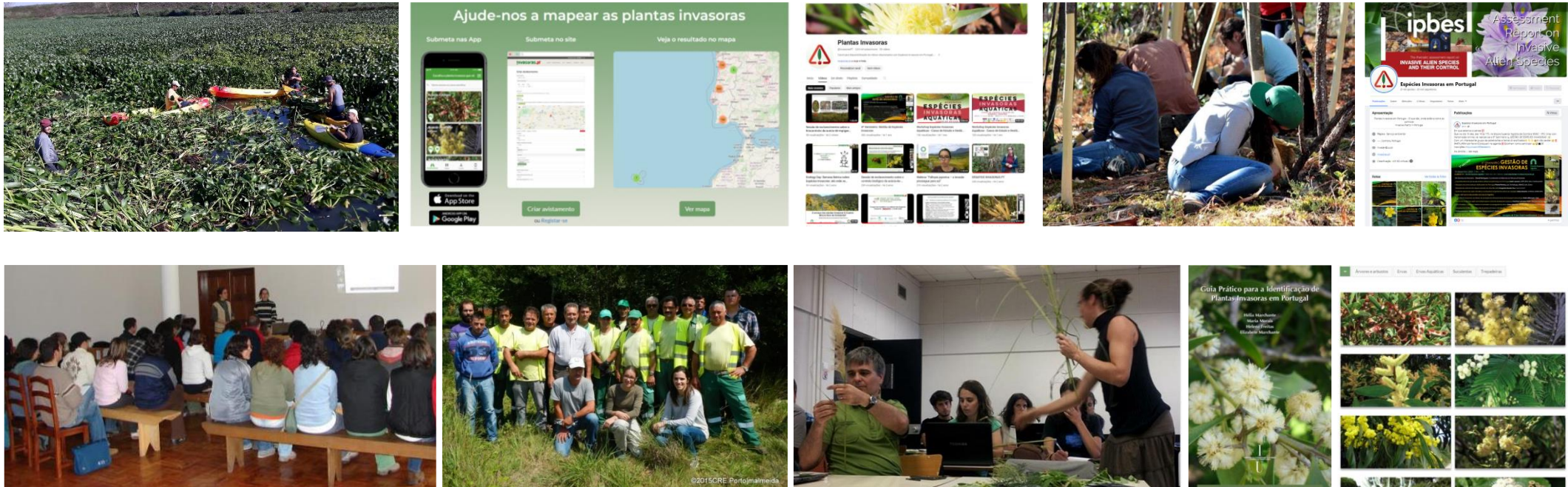
List of Invasive Alien Species of (European) Union Concern

Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context

Despite scientific progress and legislation, disseminating knowledge to managers, decision-makers and citizens is a challenge, but they need to be involved to improve IAS management!

Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context

Many approaches to engage different publics and stakeholders at least since 2003



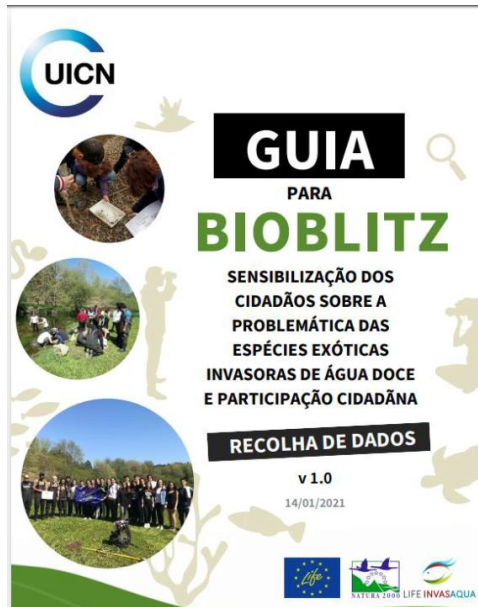
and many other entities and activities!

Marchante & Marchante, 2016



Invasive Alien Species in Portugal - context

Many approaches to engage different publics and stakeholders at least since 2003



and many other entities and activities!

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species - InvECO

Associated to the Portuguese Ecological Society

Created in December 2020



Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species - mission

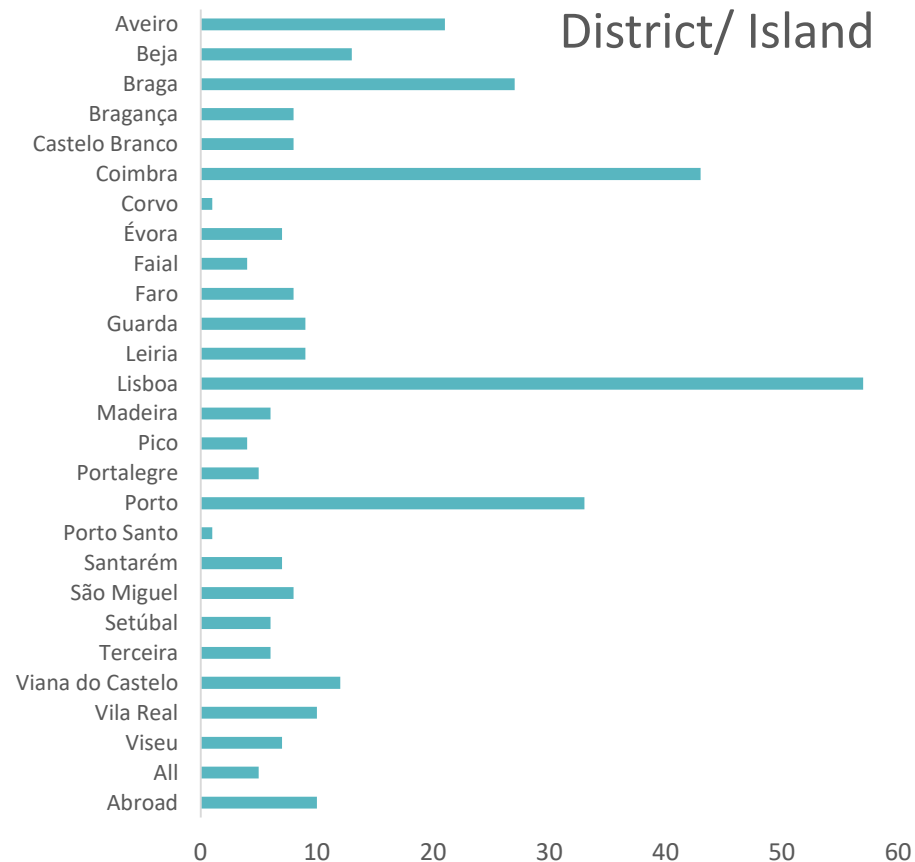


- Bringing together researchers and other stakeholders dealing with Invasive Alien Species (IAS) (e.g., municipalities, forestry & environmental associations, companies & private landowners, school communities, conservation & environmental agencies, media, etc.)
- Promote the sharing of knowledge and experiences, towards a better and integrated management of IAS at a national level, based on scientific knowledge and field experience
- Creating "facilitated channels" for communication among stakeholders
- Raise public awareness about IAS at national level

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species – 236 members



From all over the country



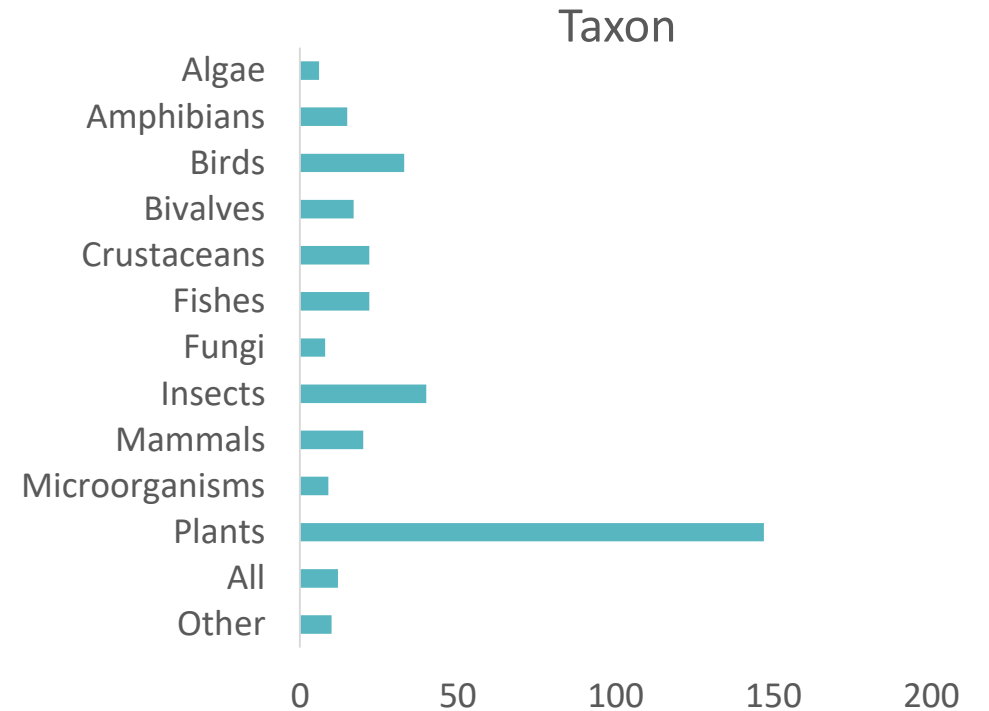
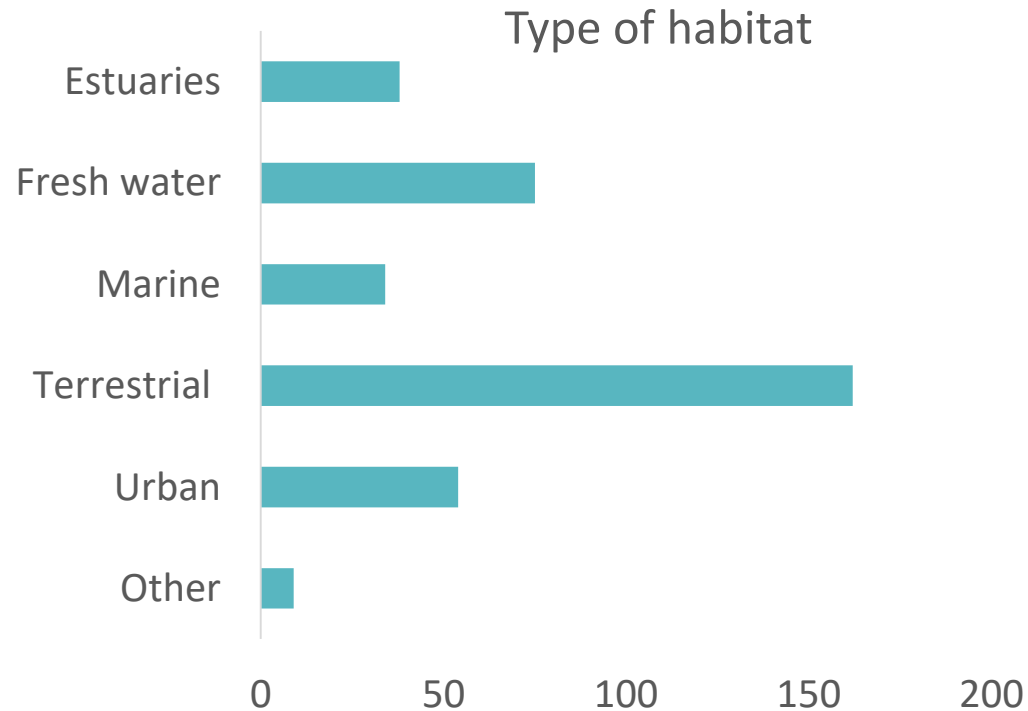
Including professionals from academia, ENGOs, conservation, communication/ environmental awareness and land management, schools, etc.

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species – 236 members



Working mostly in terrestrial and freshwater environments, but also urban, marine, estuaries, etc.

Working mostly with plants, but also birds, insects, bivalves, fishes, amphibians, etc.

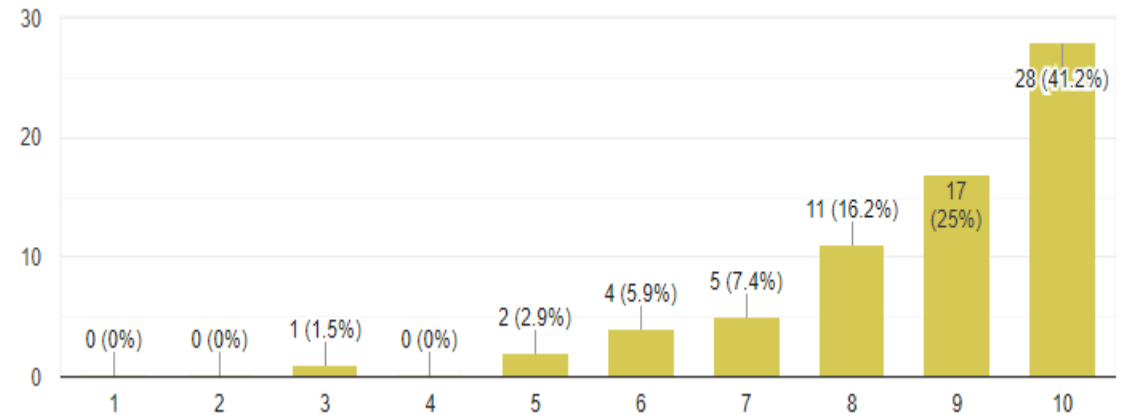
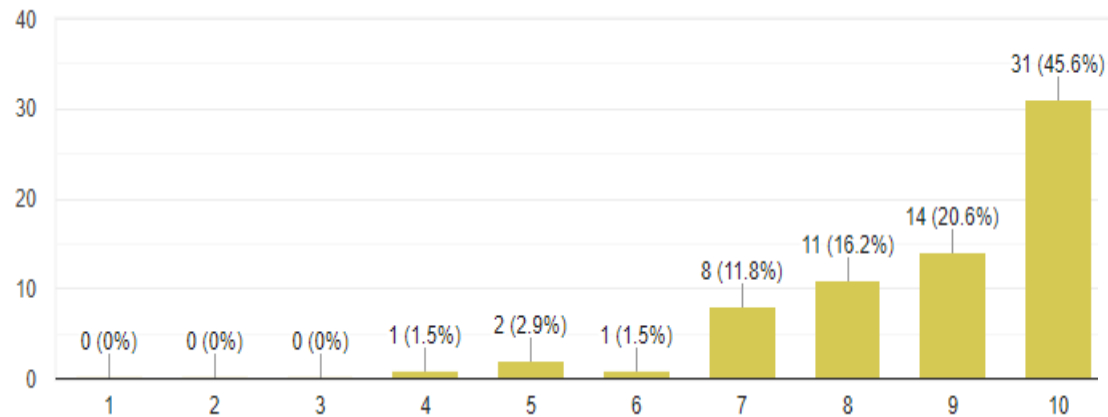


Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species – survey (68 answers out of 236, 29%)



Perception: Do you perceive that initiatives promoted by InvECO foster the sharing of knowledge and experiences promoting better integrated management of IAS?

... and increases the visibility and recognition of biological invasions by citizens at national level?



1- Nothing; 10- Very much

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species - main initiatives



National awareness week on invasive species:

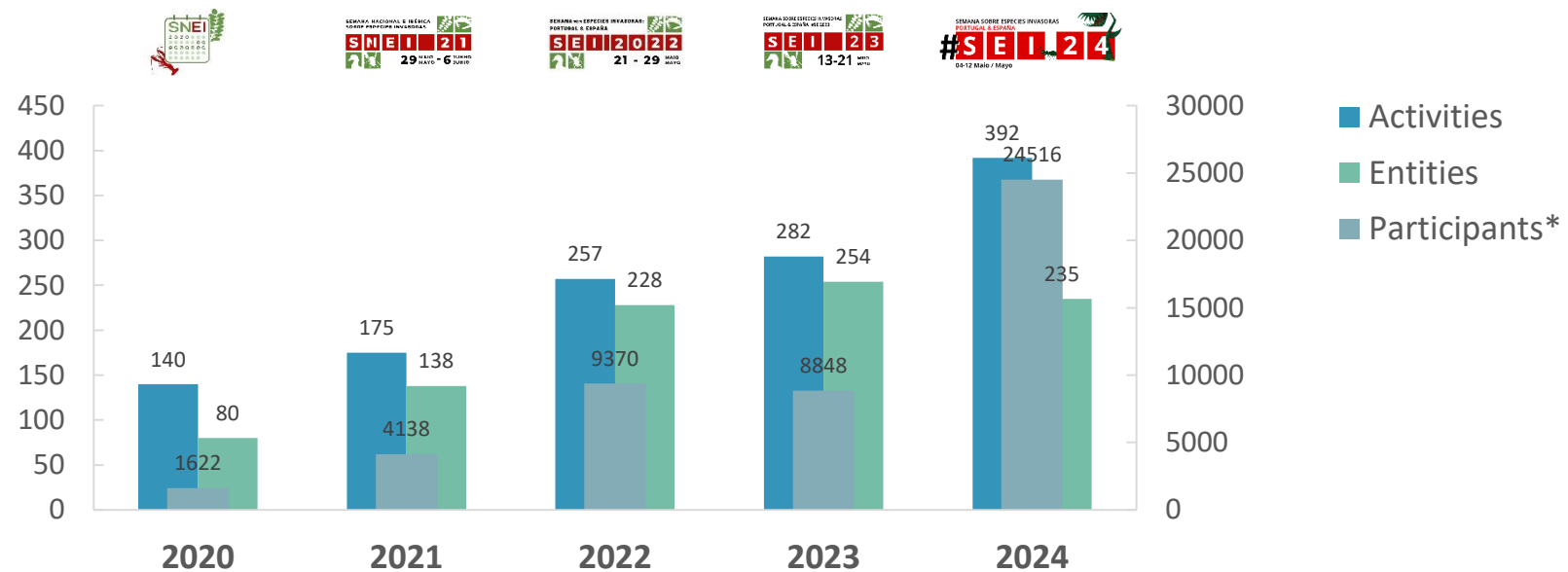
- initiated in 2020 by INVASORAS.PT platform
- expanded to Spain since 2021
- promoted by InvECO, INVASORAS.PT platform, LIFE projects COOP Cortaderia and INVASAQUA, and the (Spanish) Specialist Group on Biological Invasions



National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI

National Awareness Week on Invasive Species **2020, Portugal**, 10 - 18 October

Iberian Awareness Week on Invasive Species, **Portugal & Espanha**: 29 May - 6 June **2021**, 21 - 29 May **2022**, 13 - 21 May **2023**, 4 - 12 May **2024**



* Very rough estimate

National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI



National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI



Alguns números deste Relatório sobre impactes

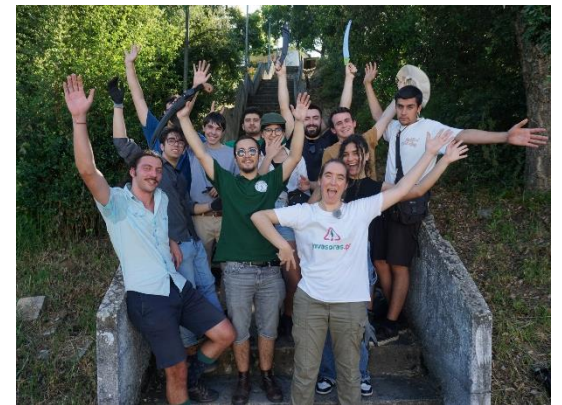
60% das extinções globais de espécies foram causadas, isoladamente ou com outras causas, pelas espécies exóticas invasoras

>\$423 mil milhões é o custo anual global estimado das invasões biológicas em 2019

85% dos impactes na natureza e na qualidade de vida das pessoas são negativos

ipbes

IPBES 2023. #InvasiveAlienSpecies Assessment



National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI

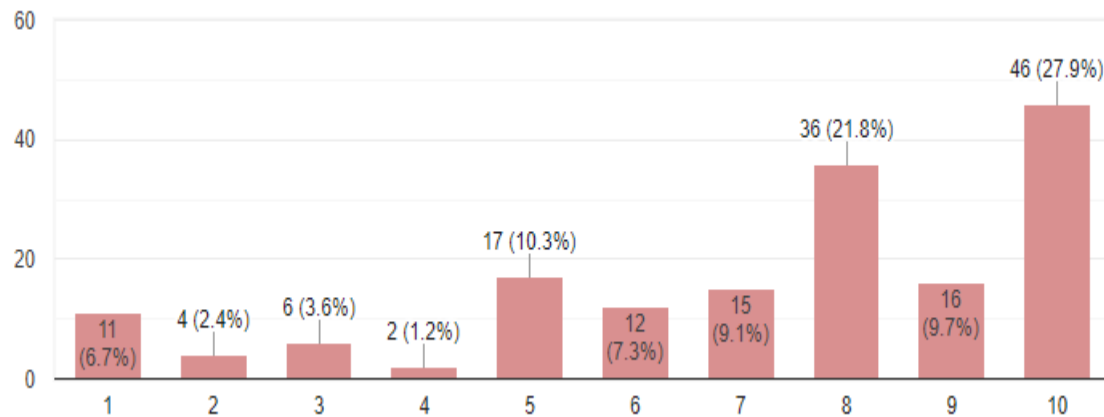


National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI

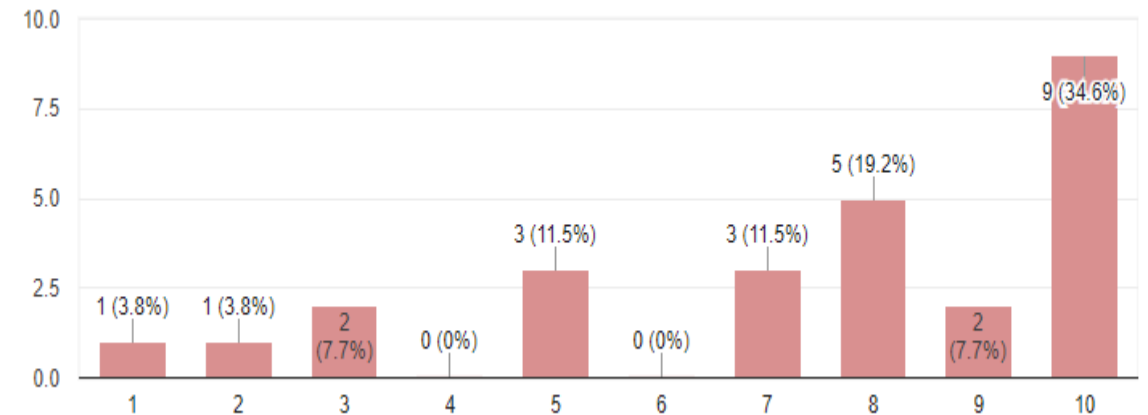
— survey (191 answers out of 923, 21%)

Does the entity deal with invasive species?

Portugal



Spain



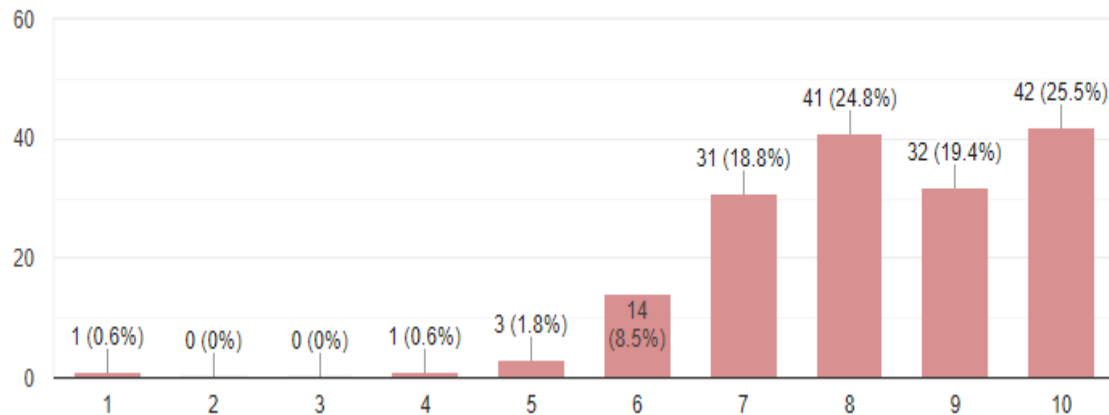
1- Nothing; 10- Very much

National Awareness Week on Invasive Species - #SEI

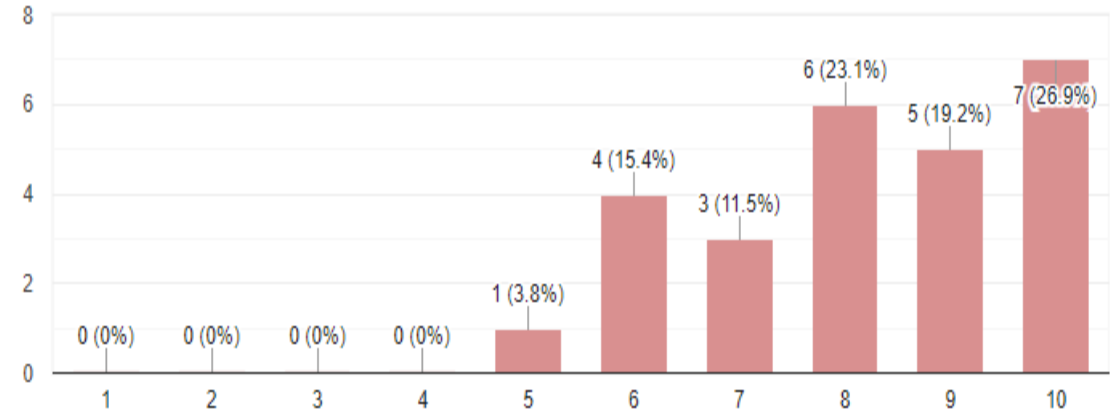
— survey (191 answers out of 923, 21%)

*Perception: Do you perceive that #SEI contributes to **increasing the visibility and recognition of biological invasions by citizens?***

Portugal



Spain



1- Nothing; 10- Very much

Portuguese Network for the Study and Management of Invasive Species - main initiatives



National awareness week on invasive species:

- initiated in 2020 by INVASORAS.PT platform
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Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays):

- held online every third Wednesday of each month since 2021
- three annual cycles, totaling 24 webinars
- over 2450 participants (94 ± 35 in each session)
- webinars accessible on the SPECO YouTube channel - over 7000 visualizations (253 ± 229)



Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays)

1st Cycle – November 2021 to July 2022



2nd Cycle – November 2022 to July 2023

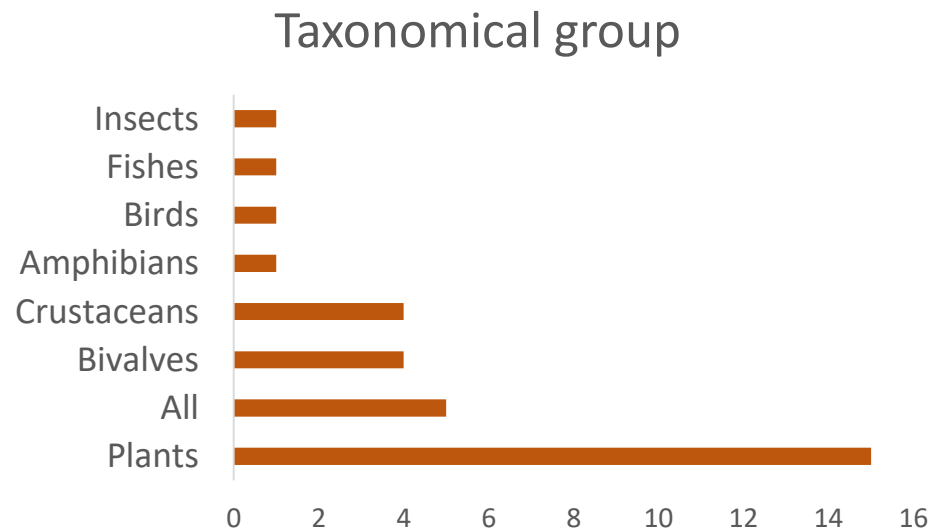


3rd Cycle – November 2023 to July 2024

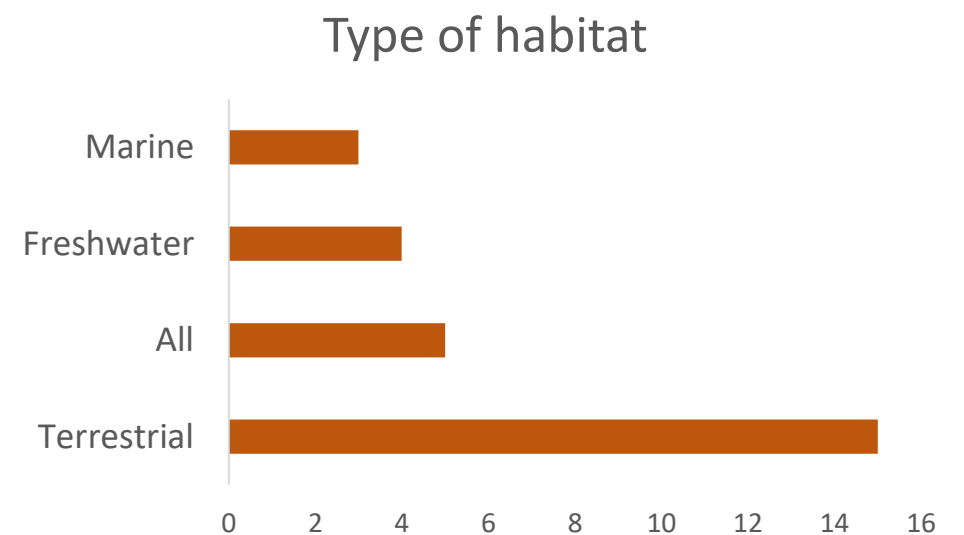


Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays)

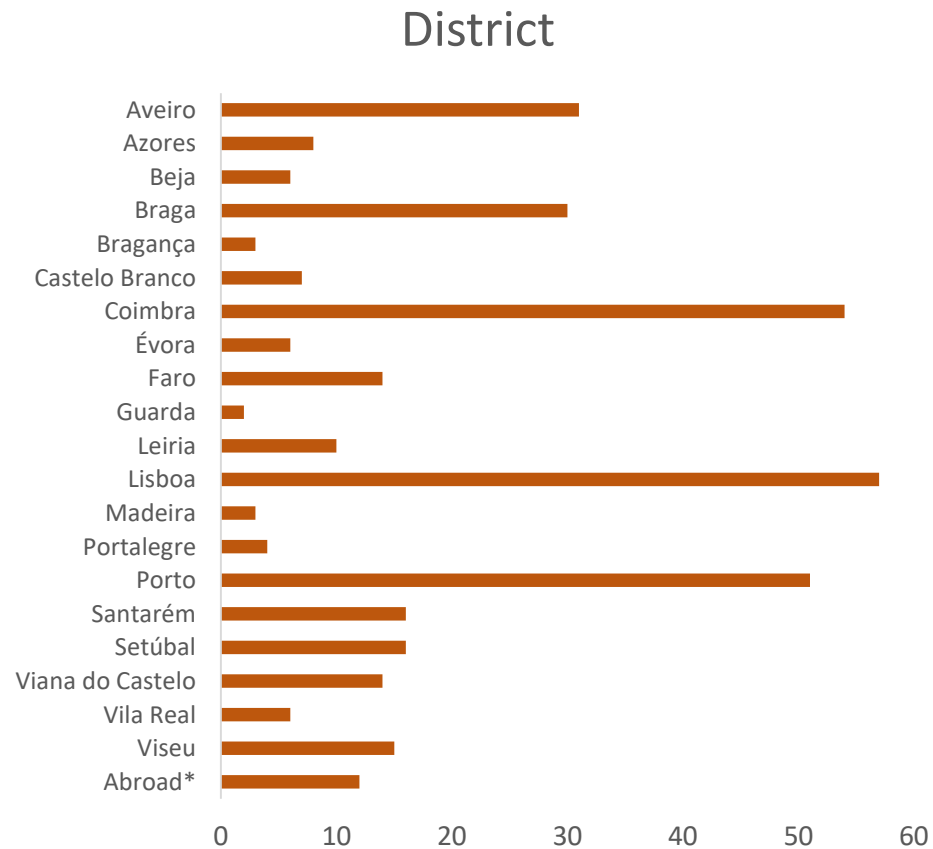
Mainly plants, but many other taxa were covered



Mainly terrestrial habitats, but also others



Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays) – survey (365 answers out of 1258, 29%)

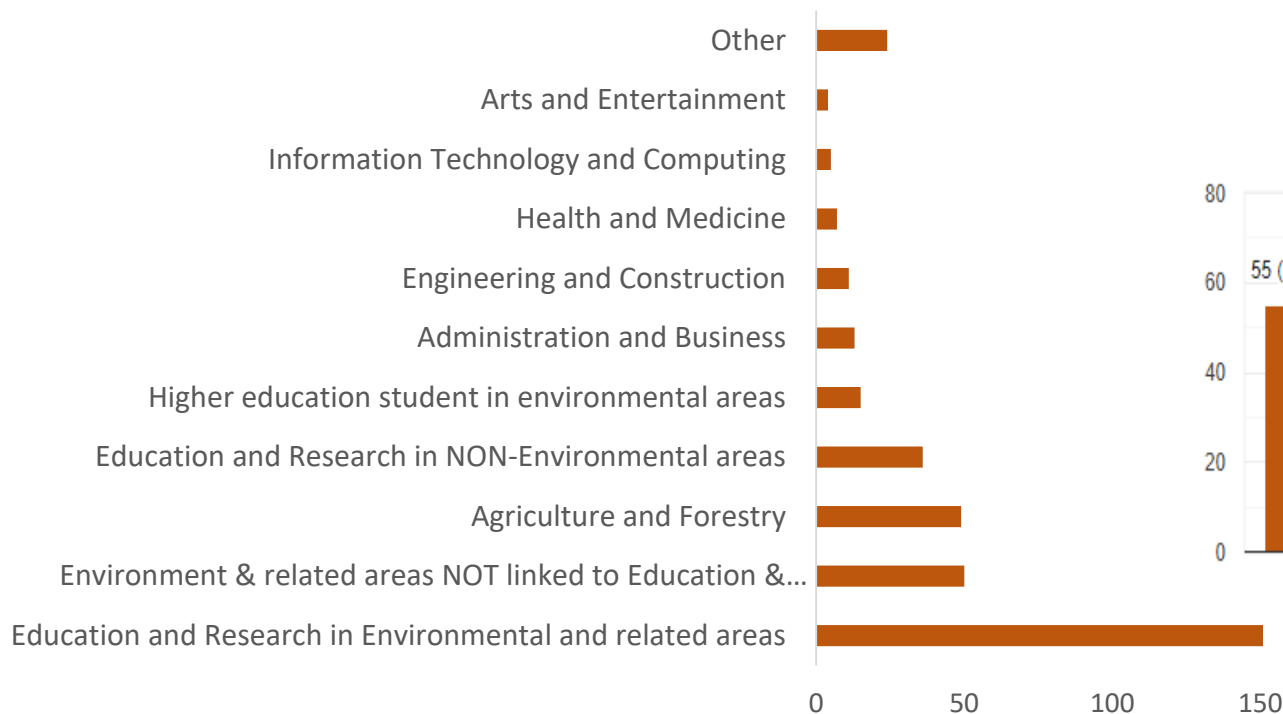


- Participants were mainly from Lisbon, Coimbra, Porto, but from all over the country and even abroad

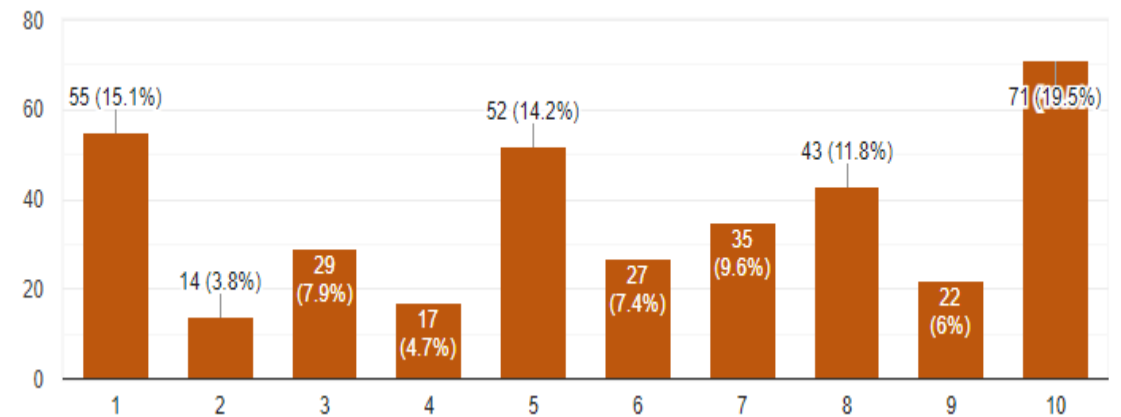
* Brazil, Mexico, Mozambique, Spain, etc.

Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays) – survey (365 answers out of 1258, 29%)

Professional field



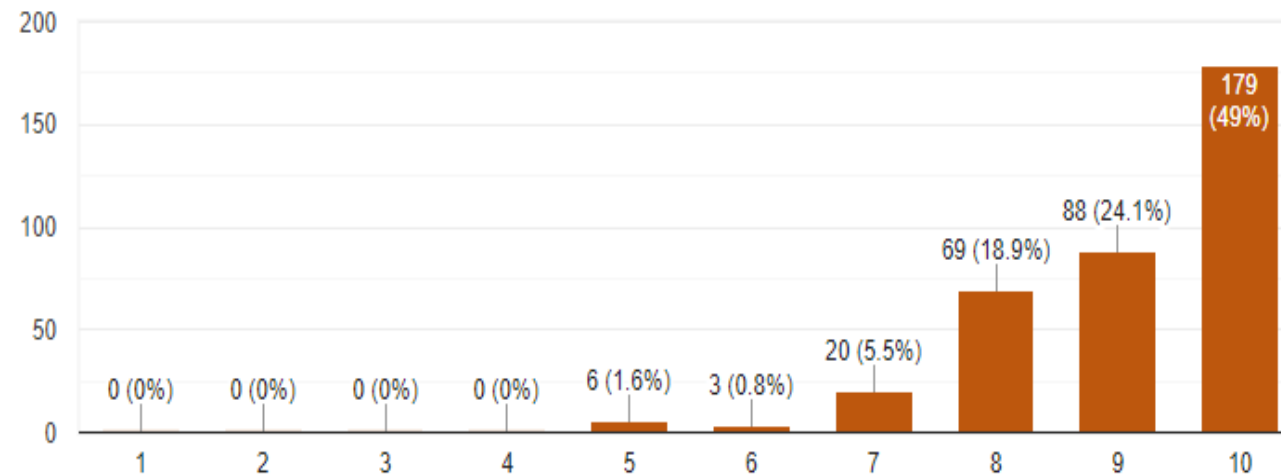
Do you deal with IAS in your profession?



1- Nothing; 10- Very much

Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays) – survey (365 answers out of 1258, 29%)

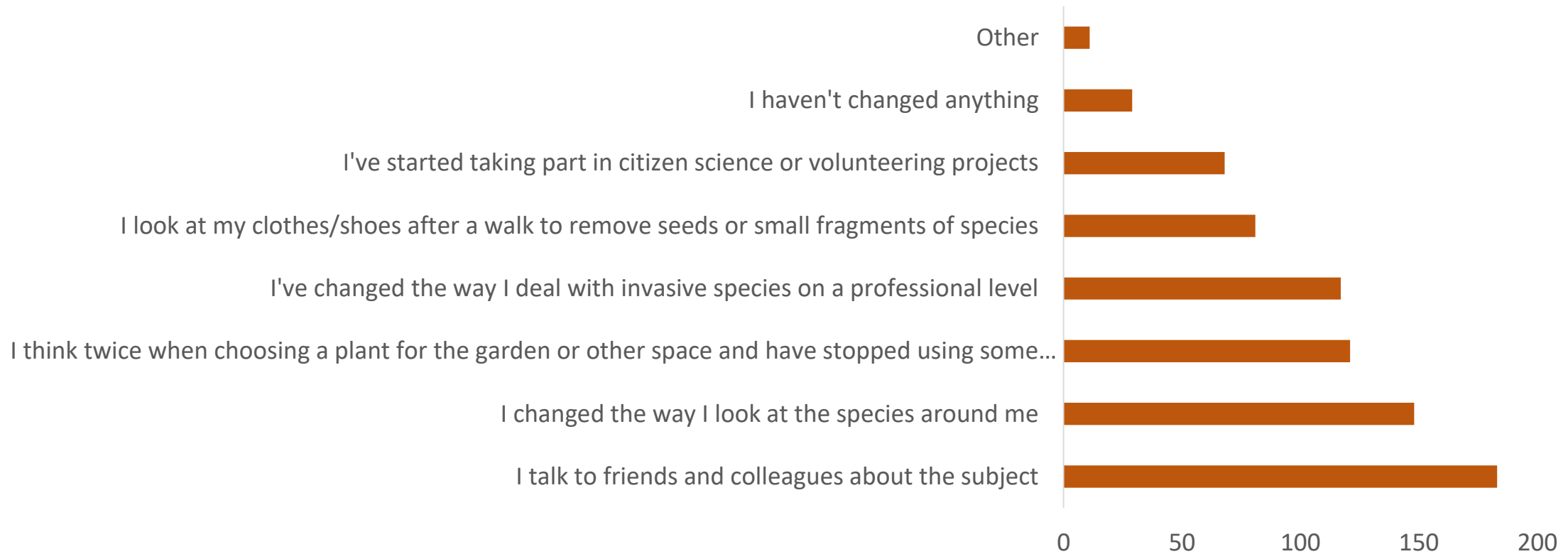
How do you rate the level of interest in the topics covered?



1- Not interesting; 10- Very interesting

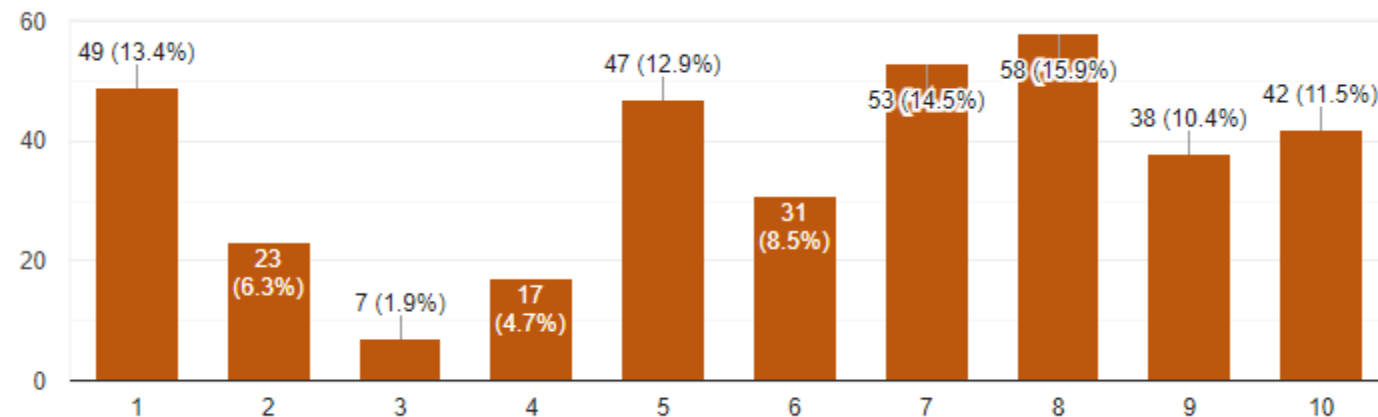
Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays) – survey (365 answers out of 1258, 29%)

Perception: As a result of attending one or more of the 'Wednesday Invasions' webinars:



Series of webinars 'Invasoras às quartas' (Invaders on Wednesdays) – survey (365 answers out of 1258, 29%)

Have you used the information from any of the webinars for any part of your work?



Mostly in classes, awareness activities, control actions, decision making, planning, etc.

1- Nothing; 10- Very much

Are you getting there? Way to go...

InvECO is successfully mobilizing citizens and stakeholders in Portugal, fostering networking and promoting initiatives that contribute to tackle biological invasion challenges:

- #SEI contributes with hundreds of prevention (awareness), detection and control activities every year
- Webinars “Invasoras às quartas” shares knowledge on many different subjects

These are small steps, and we have a long way to go in IAS management, BUT InvECO is giving an important contribution!

The future:

- ensure the continuation of the two successful initiatives (#SEI and “Invasoras às quartas”) and increase their reach
- “revitalize” the inactive and create new InvECO working groups (e.g., volunteer work, invasive birds, ...)
- collaborate with similar networks in other countries – anyone interested? 😊

Thank you! 😊



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