

Outreach Activity

In March 2012, Bioalvo and other companies involved in marine research were invited by Ciência Viva - Agência Nacional para a Cultura Científica e Tecnológica (Live Science - National Agency for Scientific and Technologic Culture) to participate in a special event that took place at Pavilhão do Conhecimento (Pavilion of Knowledge) to encourage children to join a scientific career, and increase awareness towards the marine environment and ecosystem.

In that day, Bioalvo presented a stand where we explained to children how we build our marine bacteria collection, collecting the microorganisms from the bottom of the sea and how we culture them in the laboratory. Using a microscope we showed them how different bacteria look like, and how they have different shapes. We also explained them how we grow and use the cultured microorganisms, using biotechnology techniques, to prepare beauty products, pharmaceutical derivatives and other useful industrial applications. In addition, in order to make it more appealing and funny, we allowed everyone to make shapes and drawings with bioluminescent bacteria on an agar plate. These plates were meant to be taken home, be stored at room temperature for three days and then children should look at them in a dark room, to see the shapes that they had made, shining in the dark.

This exhibition, organized by Ciência Viva was very successful, having received about 950 children, and we were invited again for the next event.

Full pictures album and a nice movie in the following links:

http://www.cienciaviva.pt/download/tardes_oceanicas_1.zip

http://www.cienciaviva.pt/download/fotos_evento_oceanos.zip