

Environment-friendly practices of health higher education community - ESTeSL case study

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Introduction

Higher education institutions have played an active role in implementing and publicizing sustainability. To achieve this goal, it is important to know the practices of the academic community to direct efforts towards increasing knowledge and practices on sustainability.

Objectives

Assess the environment-friendly practices and the knowledge about sustainability of a portuguese academic community.

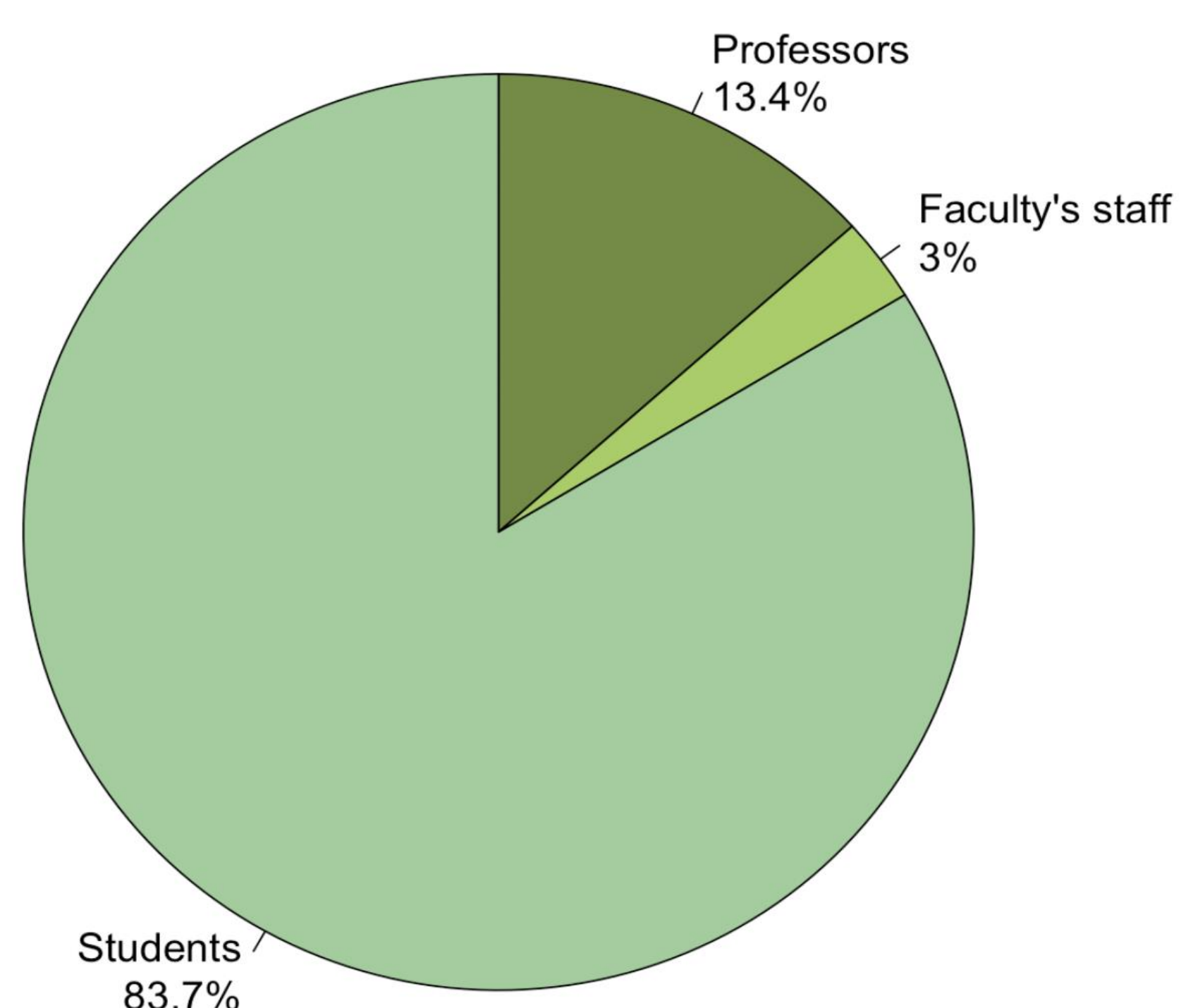
Methods

In the context of ESTeSL Eco-Schools program, a **cross-sectional study** used the **ABAEE questionnaire** for environmental audit that was disseminated to academic community. The questionnaire included dimensions of:

- Waste
- Water
- Energy
- Outdoor Spaces
- Biodiversity and Forestry
- Food and Organic Farming
- Sea
- Noise
- Mobility.

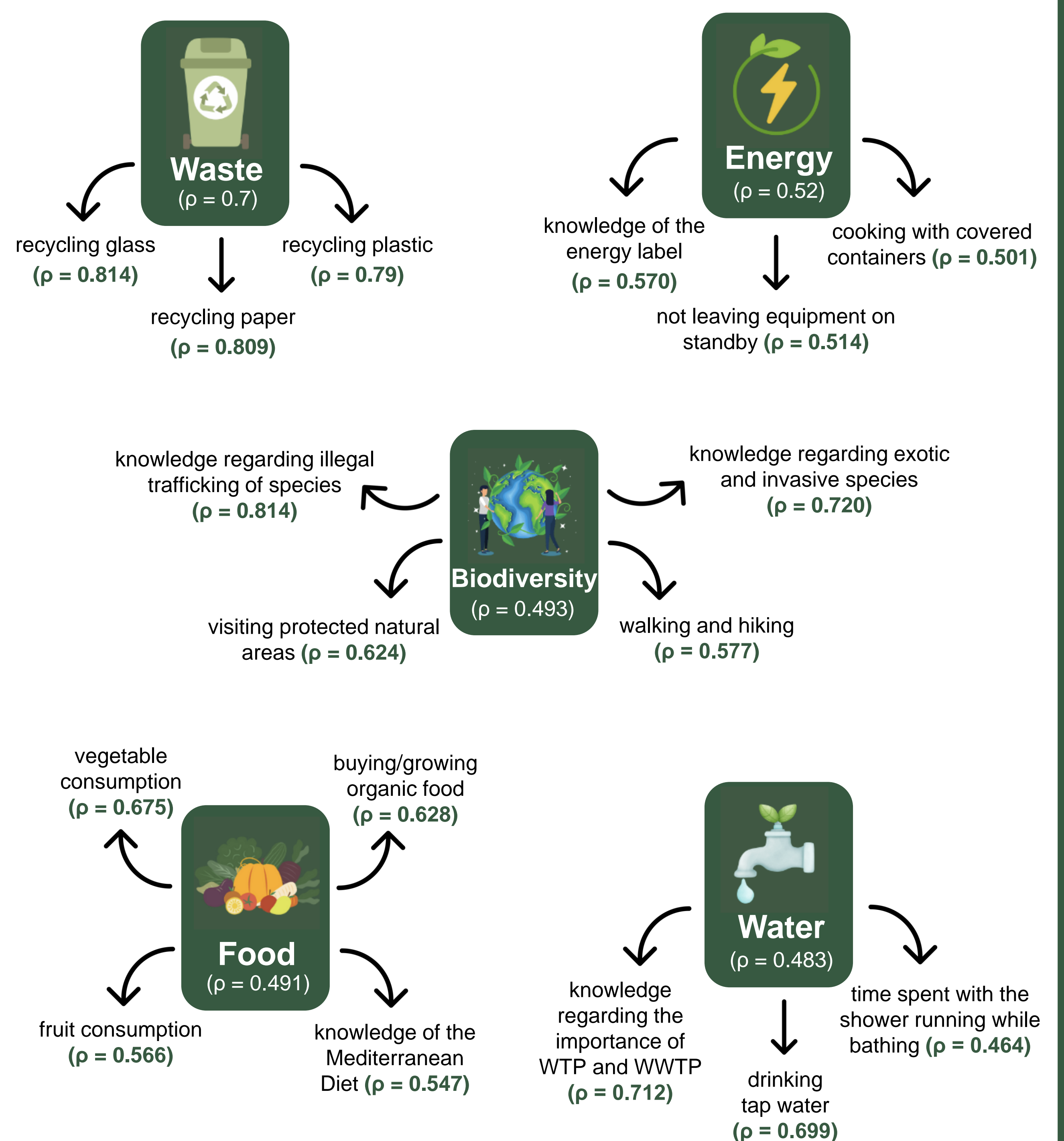
Results

203 answers were obtained, predominantly provided by students.



Results (cont.)

The final index average stood at **63.25%**, the dimensions, and respective items, that contributed most to the total score were:



Conclusions

The results presented allow us to conclude that:

- waste (through recycling practices) is the dimension with the most investment by the respondents;
- knowledge about environment-friendly practices plays a major role in the final index average, more that practices in some dimensions (like energy, biodiversity and water);

which suggests that **there is still room to invest and improve the sustainability practices of this academic community.**

Keywords Sustainability, Higher Education, Practices, Portugal, ABAEE, Eco-Schools program.

Acknowledgments Thanks to the ESTeSL-IPL Eco-schools council for publicizing.