INTRODUCTION

Higher education institutions, has an active role in the development of a sustainable future and for this reason, it is essential that they became environmentally sustainable institutions, applying methods such as the Ecological Footprint analysis. This study intent is to strengthen the potential of the ecological footprint as an indicator of the sustainability of students of Lisbon School of Health Technology, and identify the relationship between the ecological footprint and the different socio-demographic variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

By calculating the Ecological Footprint of the academic community of Lisbon School of Health Technology we reached a value of 6,01 gha and a value of 5,84 gha related to the students. On average, female individuals have a lower ecological footprint than males.

There is significant difference between the different districts, and individuals residing in the District of Castelo Branco (Portugal) have, on average, the lowest ecological footprint.

It was observed that the lowest average of ecological footprint was obtained by degree in Prosthetists and Orthotists followed by Environmental Health and the higher average was obtained by students of Radiology degree followed by Physiotherapy. The ecological footprint of the academic community and students of Lisbon School of Health Technology is superior than the value of Portugal, and above the national biocapacity.

CONCLUSION

With this study, we conclude that the students of Lisbon School of Health Technology are not environmentally sustainable, because their Ecological Footprint is higher than the biocapacity of Portugal. After understanding the reasons for the increase in Ecological Footprint compared to year 2010, it becomes pertinent to perform other complementary studies such as the calculation of the carbon and water footprint to analyze, with more detail, the reasons that led to the increase of Ecological Footprint. In addition to these study, it is proposed a new calculation of the Ecological Footprint of the academic community in the coming school years in Lisbon School of Health Technology.

REFERENCES: