

## **Saving battery life, not energy. Electronic media use and electricity consumption among teenagers**

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Electronic media are increasingly intertwined in teenagers' lives. Widening infrastructures and access to these technologies, as well as the proliferation of new gadgets and software, marketing and peer pressure encourage an intensive use. The relevance of these technologies regarding entertainment, social connections and access to information adds to teenagers' strong engagement with electronic media. Consequently, electricity consumption is a key element in their daily routines. Previous research has shown that considerations of energy saving do not influence the use of information and communication technologies by teenagers (Gram-Hanssen, 2005; Schmidt et al., 2014). However, findings from a survey administered to students enrolled in the ninth to twelfth grade of three secondary schools in Lisbon and from in-depth interviews conducted with Portuguese teenagers, show that most of them have developed competences and routines which allow them to save battery life. Yet, while they learn, for example, to change settings and turn off services to save battery life, in many cases they disregard the consequences of leaving their devices plugged in overnight. The paper discusses how these technologies, competences and meanings are interconnected and tries to analyze the dynamics of electricity consumption among teenagers. The results presented are part of a research project funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology under the award EXPL/IVC-SOC/2340/2013.