READING COMPREHENSION. TASK 1

Read this text carefully and answer the questions according to the text.

FIONN FERREIRA COMES THIRD IN YOUNG INVENTORS PRIZE

Munich, 4 July 2023 — The European Patent* Office (EPO) announced today that Fionn Ferreira, an Irish environmentalist, has won third place in the second edition of the Young Inventors Prize at the European Inventor Award 2023. Ferreira, a 22-year-old chemistry master's degree student and teaching assistant at a Dutch university, created a way to remove microplastics from water.

According to the United Nations (UN), there are more than 51 trillion microplastic particles in the seas. Microplastics are particles of less than 5mm in diameter. Large pieces of plastic sooner or later break down into tiny plastic particles. Unfortunately, because of their small size, it is nearly impossible to filter them out of water. This crisis of plastic waste accumulation is a pressing global problem that has deeply affected and inspired Fionn Ferreira.

Image: Fion Ferreira, by Fmiguel2411, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Ferreira started working on his invention when he was just 16. He has said that being so young was the most challenging obstacle in the process, as it sometimes stopped others from realising the value of his invention or the research he put into developing it. The EPO created the prize to support the next generation of inventors, recognizing innovators who are 30 years old or younger and have developed technological solutions to tackle global problems and help reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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'I'm motivated by the love of two things. One of them is inventing, building things... The other one is being in the wilderness and kayaking, and sailing, but I saw so much plastic washing up on the shore, that I decided that I had to do something about it. So first, I just started collecting plastic like we all do, but then I started realising that plastics are breaking into smaller and smaller pieces.'

Fionn Ferreira's device** called MPEC (microplastic environmental cleaning) works with a combination of oil and magnetic mineral powder, or ferrofluid. The oil in it attracts microplastic particles, and then it is taken out of the water using magnets, bringing the microplastics with it. The latest prototype removes over 85% of microplastics in a single pass and can be used safely in drinking water. The process does not require any filters or chemicals, and produces zero waste. He thinks his invention's future may be capturing microplastics from wastewater*** before it arrives to the sea.

Text adapted from: epo.org/en/news

GLOSSARY:

***Patent:** dret concedit a una persona per a l'explotació en exclusiva d'un invent.

****Device:** dispositiu, aparell.

*****Wastewater:** aigües residuals.

16. Fionn Ferreira is from...

a. Ireland.

b. Germany.

c. the Netherlands.

17. There are more than 51 trillion microplastic particles...

a. in the water.

b. in the world.

c. in the oceans.

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18. Microplastics _____ larger pieces of plastic.

a. come from

b. break

c. form

19. In the sentence 'This crisis of plastic waste accumulation is a <u>pressing</u> global problem', what does the underlined word mean?

a. Public.

b. Critical.

c. Depressing.

20. The greatest obstacle in the process was…

a. his young age.

b. his little research.

c. the low economic value.

21. In the phrase 'technological solutions to <u>tackle</u> global problems', what does the underlined word mean?

a. Avoid.

b. Prevent.

c. Deal with.

22. The two things that motivate Fionn Ferreira are…

a. creating things and being outdoors.

b. studying nature and doing water sports.

c. going to the beach and cleaning the shore.

23. Ferreira started collecting plastic on the shore but then…

a. decided to collect only the smaller pieces.

b. became frustrated and changed his method.

c. understood that the problem was more complex.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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24. Microplastics are _____ in the process.

a. reduced

b. collected

c. transformed

25. What is TRUE about the latest prototype?

a. It needs filters.

b. It is chemical-free.

c. It produces little waste.

LIVEWORKSHEETS