

Girls in ICT day
28 April 2016

*Expanding horizons,
Changing attitudes*

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International Girls in ICT Day 2016
Activities in Europe

International Girls in ICT Day 2016 was celebrated around the world on 28 April 2016. The global initiative backed by all ITU Member States in ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 70 (Rev. Busan, 2014) aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (ICTs). On International Girls in ICT Day, which is celebrated every fourth Thursday in April, ITU stakeholders are encouraged to organize events to commemorate the day and attract more girls and young women into ICT.

In Europe, International Girls in ICT Day has been celebrated in numerous countries by various stakeholders – governments, civil society, academia and private sector organizations. In 2016, activities were held at least in 36 countries.

In **Belgium**, Digital Leadership Institute organized a full-day Girl Tech Fest event promoting digital and creative skills to 11-15-year-old girls. Through hands-on workshops and showcase of female role models, 250 participating girls had a chance to get inspired and learn technology first hand.

Various hands-on workshops were organized also in **Croatia** on topics such as robotics and cryptography by the Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HAKOM) jointly with several partners. The activities also included a main celebration to commemorate International Girls



in ICT Day 2016. Lemax (iTravel Software) also celebrated in Croatia by inviting local female university and school students to their office for an event that included getting to know the company, meeting role models and a contest where students tested their knowledge in IT.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Girls in ICT Day activities were held by several organizations. Around 500 girls participated in



activities organized by Center for Civil Society Promotion in Sarajevo that included workshops, talks with female experts in the ICT sector and open door events at IT companies. The Gender Center and the Youth Council of Republic of Srpska held jointly a poster competition on the subject Women and ICT - Possibilities and Availability in Republic of Srpska. Activities were also organized by the Youth Centre INPUT in Zenica as well as by a Second Elementary School and the Association of IT teachers of elementary schools in the municipality of Srebrenik, where participating girls showcased their programming skills and presentations on ICT related topics.

Germany has been championing for years the promotion of girls and young women into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) studies and careers. In the framework of Girls' Day - 'Future Prospects for Girls' initiative, which is funded by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, companies, training facilities, universities, and research centers open their doors every year to thousands of girls around the country. A significant part of these events are ICT-related events held in connection with the International Girls in ICT Day celebrations.

Also in the **Netherlands**, Girls' Day events organized by VHTO, the Dutch National Expert Organisation on Girls/Women and Science/Technology, attract thousands of girls around the country to STEM- and ICT-related events every year.

In **Hungary**, Holografika, a venture active in the field of emerging photonic technologies, invited girls to their office to learn about 3D technology. In Budapest, also EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology) Digital invited high school girls to their office to meet female staff and participate in an innovation game.



In **Iceland**, activities to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day were organized by the University of Reykjavik and Greencloud. In **Italy**, Enel ICT held an open doors event to young women from secondary schools and universities. In addition, activities were organized by Concreta-Mente as well as by a start-up accelerator H-Farm jointly with ING Bank Italy and Impact Hub in Florence. In their event, female founders had a chance to take part in a pitching competition.

In **Latvia**, Tele2 Shared Service Center held an international meet-up for ICT students and industry professionals with the title “Girls Make IT Happen 2016”. In **Lithuania**, a webinar was held by the national initiative “Women and Technology” with the topic “Girls in the Digital Age”.



In **Malta**, Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA) organized a full-day programme for 70 girls between the ages of 11 and 13. The participants had the chance to interact with ICT professionals from MITA, learn about opportunities for study programmes available in ICT, and also take part in hands-on workshops.



Activities were organized in Malta also by Institute of Computer Education.

In **Montenegro**, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications organized a series of activities including a workshop on graphic design, a lecture about the importance of education and careers in the IT sector and influential women in the industry, and a poster competition and an award ceremony.



Students themselves also organized a peer-workshop on the advantages and potential threats on the Internet.

In **Poland**, the President of UKE (Office of Electronic Communications) held a contest for traineeship in ICT for female students, in which the participants who propose the best solutions to a specific task prepared by one of the eight partner companies will be awarded with a three-month, paid traineeship. The contest is the main initiative within the social campaign of the President of UKE titled "Girls in New Technologies" and is held under honorary patronage of the First Lady of Poland, Ms Agata Kornhauser-Duda. In addition, UKE organized a "Work in IT is not only programming" - conference addressed to students of technical faculties aiming to encourage them to choose ICT-sector as a career path. Also Perspektywy Education Foundation held a range of activities in Poland in the framework of Women in Engineering programme.

In **Portugal** activities were organized by several organizations. Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações held a Creative Digital Works Competition and a main celebration event, which included a panel discussion. Portugal Girls Geek Dinners organized workshops and presentations in Porto and Lisbon. Findmore Consulting hosted an event for college and university female students to talk about IT areas and career opportunities. Also University of Lisbon celebrated International Girls in ICT Day 2016.



In **Serbia**, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications organized an event opened by State Secretary, Ms. Tatjana Matic. 70 female students from four elementary schools participated in the activities that included meeting female role models, learning about the opportunities in the ICT sector and a photo contest with the title “Digitally creative”. Also MetLab commemorated International Girls in ICT Day in Serbia.



In **Slovakia**, 63 different different activities were organized for more than 900 participating high school girls around the country by Aj TY v IT. In **Slovenia**, the day was commemorated by Laboratory for Telecommunications at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering.



In **Spain**, numerous activities were organized by several stakeholders. The Institute for Women supported by the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society organized workshops in schools throughout the country and as part of the programme, specific training material has been developed for teachers to promote science and technology careers for girls and young women. Spanish Association of Executive and Councilors in cooperation with ESADE Alumni and Girls in Tech Spain held a panel discussion to talk about the incorporation of women into careers in scientific and technological roles. A seminar with the same topic was also held in Oviedo by Oviedo Emprende. They also challenged schools in Asturia to create digital art works showing Asturian women working in the IT sector and the best project was presented at the event and on the website.

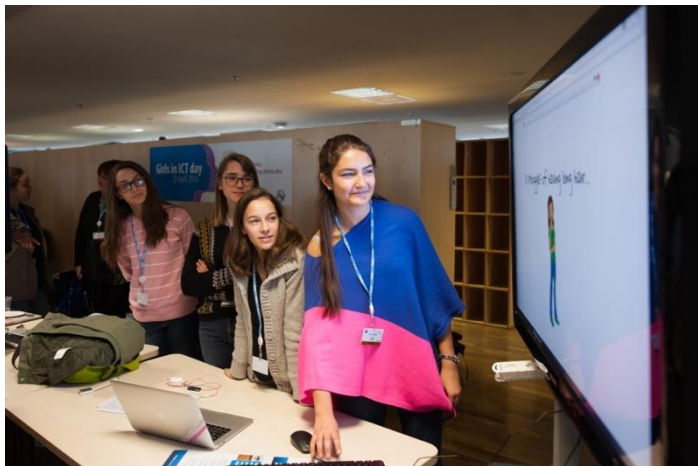


ITScool educational association organized activities in cooperation with technical higher educational institutes in Manresa, Castelldefels, Barcelona and Vilanova i la Geltrú. These events featured workshops, talks with role models, and roundtable discussions, among others. Galicia Supercomputing Centre and Professional College of Computer Engineers of Galicia (CESGA) held an event that included a morning session for schools to get to know female ICT professionals and an afternoon session with workshops for girls on, for example, coding and 3D printing as well as guided visits to the Supercomputing Centre. Also CTIC Technology Centre invited girls in secondary education to visit the center and its laboratory to learn about the work of the center and meet the staff. ICT Department at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) organized an *equit@T* Award for the promotion of gender equality in ICT in the geographical area of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) and Latin America. The award ceremony was held in Barcelona and included some inspiring speakers.

In **Sweden**, EIT Digital organized an event inviting ten high school girls and five female students from KTH Royal Institute of Technology to listen to inspiring talks and participate in hands-on workshops on how to make Android Puzzlebots interactive using Arduino.



In **Switzerland**, in collaboration with Expanding Your Horizons, schools from Geneva organized workshops in the lead up to Girls in ICT Day with the support of experts from ITU, UNOSAT, Futurekids and Techspark Academy. 61 girls who participated in the workshops were invited to the ITU HQ



for a celebration where they had the opportunity to present what they learned during the workshops to the ITU officials, the diplomatic community, ITU Staff and ITU Delegates. The event also included a speed mentoring session.

ITU and Com-ITU of CEPT commemorated International Girls in ICT Day 2016 during the meeting of Com-ITU of CEPT in Lucerne, Switzerland. Through a quiz and a presentation, the participating delegates from more than 25



European administrations learned about the Girls in ICT Day initiative and the importance of encouraging more girls and women to participate in the ICT-sector.

In the **UK**, GSMA hosted school girls for an event where they learned how to launch a start-up business and gained hands-on experience and insights from a range of inspirational technology leaders and innovators. The participants tested their business and



technical skills through a number of interactive activities including learning to code by editing videos of their pitch presentations. Also Ayshire College and CPS Solutions celebrated the day in the UK.

International Girls in ICT Day is annually celebrated also by several big technology companies in Europe. Microsoft commemorated the day in the framework of their #MakeWhatsNext campaign by organizing activities in **Albania, Austria**, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Bulgaria**, Croatia, Czech Republic, **Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France**, Germany, **Greece**, Hungary, **Ireland**, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, **Norway**, Portugal, **Romania**, Serbia, Spain, UK, and **Ukraine**. Also Cisco participated actively by organizing events at Cisco offices and Cisco Networking Academies around the world. In Europe, the countries involved included Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, **Israel**, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, **Turkey**, UK and Ukraine.

This report is based on the information provided to ITU by the International Girls in ICT Day 2016 event organizers. The pictures from the events have been shared with ITU and are used with the permission of the organizers.

For more information about the International Girls in ICT Day events, please visit: www.girlsinict.org/girls-in-ict-day-events. If your event is not yet featured on ITU Girls in ICT Portal, please contact girlsinict@itu.int.