GIRLS IN ICT DAY 2020 – SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

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1. Introduction

International Girls in ICT Day 2020 was celebrated around the world on and around 23 April. This 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, celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April, ITU stakeholders are encouraged to organize events to commemorate the day and attract more girls and young women into ICT. Since 2011, more than 362,000 girls and young women have taken part in more than 11,000 celebrations in 171 countries worldwide.

Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, many active partners of this global movement have made remarkable and inspiring efforts to transform their on-site events into exciting virtual activities to celebrate Girls in ICT Day 2020, thus effectively demonstrating the power of technology! In Europe, International Girls in ICT Day has been celebrated in numerous countries by various stakeholders – the public sector, civil society, academia and private sector organizations. This report provides a seclection of activities observed in in 11 countries in Europe.

Approach

The information presented in this report was collected through reports and communication to ITU from different stakeholders. Information is presented in an alphabetical order per country.

This report is based on the information provided to ITU by the International Girls in ICT Day 2020 event organizers supplemented by online research through search engines and social media platforms. The pictures from the events have been shared with ITU and are used with the permission of the organizers.

We welcome more events to be added and request any such information to be sent to eurregion@itu.int.

More information is available at :

- www.itu.int/girlsinict for the International Girls in ICT Day events
- www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe for ITU Regional Actions in Europe

2. Selection of Activities in Europe

Albania

To honor the Girls in ICT Day, Albanian ICT Academy decided to offer a special program to support girls who want to work in the field of ICT, starting the project on 23 April. During 2020, the focus will be on orphaned girls and girls with financial needs. With the support of their partner Risi Albania, 30 girls will benefit from the training packages and will be supported until employment. Considering market needs and ease of employment there are two prepared training packages: Graphic Design & Digital Marketing, and Graphic & Web Design.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Center for the Promotion of Civil Society (CPCD) organized a virtual social gathering and discussion on the Girls in ICT Day on April 23, 2020. The topics of discussion were Artificial Intelligence and Digital Marketing. In this regard, the dialogue revolved around the benefits and disadvantages of data science, machine learning, and personalization of content for marketing purposes. The discussion was attended by 45 girls interested in careers in the IT sector as well as science in general.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a non-profit organization called Girl Thing, part of the students' council of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Tuzla, also organized three different webinars from 22 to 24 April on the occasion of the Girls in ICT Day. The aim was to encourage girls to join and contribute their knowledge and skills to the development of information and communication technologies.

IT Girls BiH marked the International Girls in ICT Day by launching an online mobile application development workshop.

The workshop was offered by Avanti, who is 13 and already a Super Girl - an expert on Workshop4Me, a nonprofit that offers programming courses for children and young people. Girls between the age of 10 and 18 joined on this occasion to learn from the expertise of her.

Croatia

For six years in a row, the private company Lemax, has joined the global movement of Girls in ICT day to inspire girls and women to build their careers in the ICT industries.

Even though this year, due to COVID-19 circumstances, they were unable to organize a big conference like the previous years, they still committed to honor this tradition.
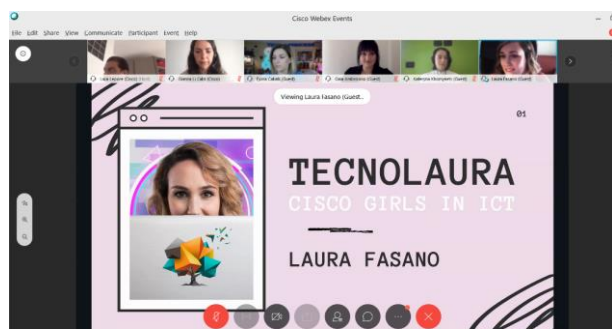
Instead of one day, they decided to celebrate the whole week by sharing the stories of their female employees on social media platforms to attract other young women to follow in their footsteps. In this vision, the female role models provided their grains of wisdom about what it is like to work in an IT company.

Italy

CISCO Networking Academy Italy organized CISCO Girls in ICT on 24 April 2020 where seven extraordinary women digitally shared their success stories and how they made ICT for a reason for life.

For years, Cisco has organized events to debunk the myth that "woman" and "geek" cannot be in the same sentence by showcasing motivational female figures in the sector! The full access to the broadcast can be found here.
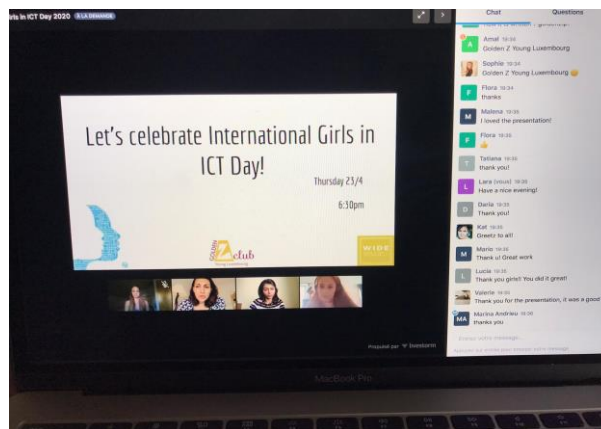The Educational Science Program at University of Siena organized an online

workshop to celebrate Girls in ICT Day on 7 May 2020. During the worksop women professionals from [Vetrya](), a world-renowded tech company, shared their experiences in the computer science field to inform and inspire young women. Around 150 participants joined the online workshops.

Luxembourg

[Women in Digital Empowerment]() celebrated Girls in ICT Day by holding a a webinar on data analysis and the use of new technologies as a response to the COVID-19 crisis. During this online event, Amal Tawakuli, researcher in the field of data science, enlightened the participants on computer science in different fields and its impacts on society. Followingly Amal Tawakuli, Blanca Martìnez de Aragon and Belén Dìaz-Mor, telecom engineers and creators of the [helpcovid19 website,]() held an inspiring presentation on data analysis.

Portugal

[National Center for Cybersecurity]() joined the Girls in ICT Day by launching a four-day awareness campaign, which aimed to encourage young girls to consider studies in the area of information and communication technologies by sharing inspirational and informational stories of female technologists through their social media accounts.

[Portuguese Women in Tech]() celebrated the Girls in ICT Day by launching 5 webinars in which women in technology sectors shared their work and path to inspire the next generation of female professionals in technology. More than 120 participants joined the webinars.

Serbia

Since 2011, [Association of Business Women Serbia]() (ABWS) has been regularly organizing an event on Girls in ICT Day. Through their organization, more than 7,000 girls deepened their interest in the ICT sector by having real encounters with successful female entrepreneurs as role models.

This year ABWS adapted their programme to the needs of the pandemic situation. They celebrated the week starting from 23 April to 30 April. Three main activities were held online for the participation of primary school students:

- Organization of the "Catch the Idea" competition for the girl teams to present their ideas on suggested topics in a short video.
- Virtual group visits of girls to companies to meet business owners to learn from their inspiring journey. The visits started on 23 April, the International Day of Girls in ICT, and were organized until 30 April.
- On 30 April, the final event was taken place to announce the winner of the "Catch the Idea" contest.

The Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications also held its yearly celebration of the Girls in ICT Day by organizing an online panel for female students' involvement in the technology sector. One subject of discussion was dedicated to how modern technologies can help solve the crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus.

The panel was attended by 120 beneficiaries. Accordingly, all interested girls were invited to send their suggestions and ideas on how advanced technologies can help solve the emerging crisis over the next ten days to the ministry emails.

Slovakia

Aj Ty V IT regularly holds annual Girls in ICT Day events in Slovakia with the purpose of attracting more girls and young women into STEM fields. Last year, it was even attended by an incredible 1,200 girls from 58 Slovak towns and cities in a single day. However, due to the pandemic situation of 2020, Aj Ty V IT had to convert its organization into a social media campaign by releasing endorsement videos and posting the stories and visuals of previous attendees.

Spain

STEM Talent Girl, a mentoring project which aims to inspire and empower the next generation of leading women in science and technology, organized an open master class online on April 23 to celebrate the International Girls in ICT Day.

The objective of this masterclass was to inspire girls and young women to open their minds to new possibilities in STEM and to develop their professional careers.

A non-profit organization, Fundación Cibervoluntarios, celebrated the International Day of Girls in ICT by organizing online public talks with various educational centres. The objective of these talks was to give visibility to the women figures in the technological and scientific areas while helping to reduce the digital gender gap. In total, more than 70 people have participated.

In addition, a video interview was broadcasted with Patricia González , CEO of Alterhome as an example of female digital entrepreneurship. In addition, the e-book *Entrepreneurs of the 21st Century,* which is based on the experiences of women entrepreneurs and technological and social innovation, was circulated.

Centro de Supercomputación de Galicia (CESGA) organized a web conference to celebrate Girls in ICT day with the participation of four exceptional women from the different sectors of technology to motivate new generations of young people to consider ICT for academic, research and professional development. About 130 primary and seconedy school students joined the event to benefit from the experience of the female presenters and had the chance to ask their questions.

Valeria, an 11-year-old girl and Patricia, her teacher of robotics, have a YouTube channel called ValPat Steam with the objective of inspiring girls to discover the technology world.

Their Youtube channel has already published over 100 videos, with projects on coding, 3D printing, electronics, robotics, and math.

To celebrate Girls in ICT day on April 23, they streamed an exciting YouTube Live session, in where Valeria showed the tools she has used in the last 4 years to learn coding and how she built a passion for technology. You can access to the full session here.

AMIT-Aragón (Association of Women Researchers and Technologists in Aragon) organized this year the fifth edition of "A Female Engineer in every School" project. Women engineers from University of Zaragoza, the CSIC and private sector provided 11 workshops in order to show young students how engineers work. The workshops were attended by over 300 students.

The non-profit organization La Fundación Centro Tecnológico de la Información y la Comunicación (CTIC) has been regularly celebrating Girls in ICT Day since 2012.
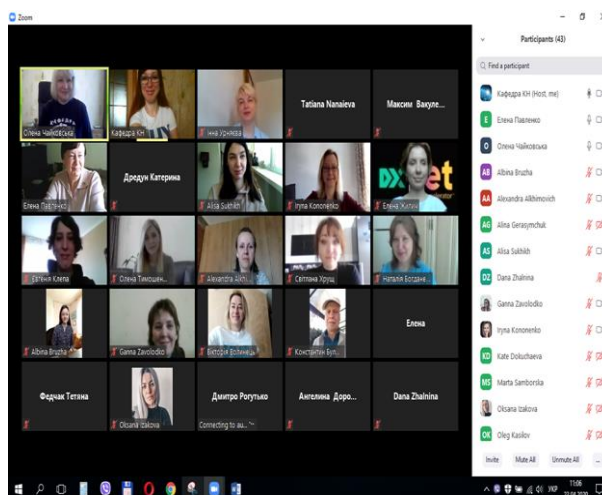
To carry on the tradition despite the pandemic situation, CTIC organized an online meeting led by their women employees to share their career experience to students between 12 and 18 years old in order to break stereotypes and show the attractiveness of the diverse ICT sector.

Ukraine

[The Kyiv National University of Culture and Arts](#) celebrated the Girls in ICT Day with a virtual panel discussion on Women's Leadership in ICT with the participation of the representatives of top IT companies, Ministries and start-up incubators in the country.

The panel discussion was followed by a training workshop in digital design to attract girls to the IT professions, in particular, to the profession of digital designing. The complete broadcast of the event can be found [here](#).

[CSR Ukraine](#), an expert organization of the CSR Development Center, in partnership with [the United Nations Population Fund in Ukraine](#), launched a unique online marathon for the International Day of Girls in ICT as part of thef [#GirlsSTEM](#) Initiative .
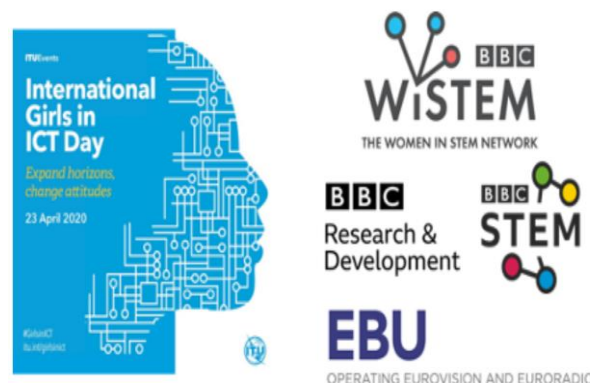
For 16 consecutive hours, 32 successful IT women working in well-known international and Ukrainian IT companies shared the secrets of their own success, features of their work, and gave valuable advice to girls who dream of building a career in information technologies. The marathon became a record for the number of participants and speakers and was included in the Record Book of Ukraine.

Each role model provided their unique story, with individual experiences and victories. In a manner of reciprocal conversation, the audience were also able to ask questions to the speakers, get acquainted and get tips on the chosen field.

The full 16-hour broadcasted video of the event can be found here as the [first](#) and [second](#) part.

United Kingdom

[BBC Women in STEM](#), a supportive community for women in STEM roles across the BBC, organized a 2-hour webinar, hosted by women working in BBC STEM roles, for local girls and teachers to join. The webinar consisted of demonstrations and tasks showing how ICT underpins broadcasting, as well as Q&A sessions with women engineers and technologists.

On this occasion, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, also spoke to girls online, stressing the need to attract more girls to ICT.

In the United Kingdom, GSMA Association, the industry organization which represents more than 1,200 mobile operators worldwide, also hosted a webinar. The webinar reflected on the impact of digital transformation on women and girls in particular and the power and potential of mobile to accelerate change.

In addition, GSMA ran an online creativity and innovation challenge aimed at building digital skills for girls across the Commonwealth aged 8-16 years old. This free, interactive, online challenge helped students learn digital skills and create incredible ideas to make education and learning more inclusive for all children.

On this occasion, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau, also participated the event to emphasize the need for cooperation to further our common goals in ICT sector.

3. Towards International Girls in ICT Day 2021

International Girls in ICT Day 2021 will be observed on 22 April 2021. All Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other stakeholders are encouraged to join the global movement to empower girls and young women through ICTs by organising activities to celebrate the day on and around 22 April 2021.

Organisers are welcome to design and create their own programme most suitable for the local context with resources available. To guide organisers with practical tips and ideas for event activities, ITU has also published a toolkit available on ITU Girls in ICT Portal. Previous Girls in ICT Day events published on the Girls in ICT Day Portal may also serve as inspiration.