



Girls in ICT Celebrations

April
in Europe Region

#GirlsInICT
itu.int/girlsinict

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1. Introduction

International Girls in ICT Day 2017 was celebrated around the world on 27 April 2017. 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, celebrated every fourth Thursday in April, ITU stakeholders are encouraged to organize events to commemorate and 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 – the public sector, civil society, academia and private sector organizations. In 2017, activities were held at least in 29 countries. Girls in ICT Day attracts annually lots of attention also online through social media, especially with the #GirlsInICT hashtag organisers use to publish information about their activities. In 2017, the hashtag was trending on 27 April, the official 2017 Girls in ICT Day in at least Italy and Switzerland 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 2017 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. 2017 activities in Europe

Albania

[Ministry of Innovation and Public Information](#) joined the Girls in ICT Day campaign for the first time by organising an event at the Ministry in Tirana. The event aimed to raise awareness on the importance of attracting more girls and young women into ICT and featured some of the Albanian role models of young successful female digital entrepreneurs and ICT professionals.

Belgium

[Digital Leadership Institute](#) organised this year jointly with partners the second annual Girl Tech Fest, which is a volunteer-run event with over 100 activities reaching 250 participants from across Brussels. The aim is to encourage girls toward study and career paths in ESTEAM: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) as well as Entrepreneurship and Arts. The workshop activities include digital music, wearable technology and programming, among others.



Bosnia and Herzegovina

Around 40 female students and 20 teachers from twenty elementary schools from the Tuzla Canton participated in an event held at a [school in Srenik](#). The programme included presentation of ICT skills, STEM workshop and a roundtable discussion on Girls and ICT. The event attracted local media attention with a feature on a local TV.



[IT Girls BiH](#), an initiative led by UN staff and volunteers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised a set of activities for twelve girls aged 13-15 from Srebrenica and Sarajevo. The girls had a chance to test Virtual Reality goggles, learn coding in Python, and compete in a game answering tech-related questions. Furthermore, together with the non-governmental organisation “One World Platform”, a focus group was established to discuss why it is important to have more women in the ICT sector. This discussion contributed to developing key messages to be published online. The day finished with the screening of the inspiring movie CodeGirl.



[Gender Center - Center for Equity and Equality of the Government of the Republika Srpska](#) held a series of activities jointly with their partners, IT Company LANACO and Innovation Center Banja Luka (ICBL). In the beginning of April, they launched a call for submissions of creative design solutions to solve problems in the local communities through the use of ICT. The top three projects were awarded at the event. In addition, there were workshops on coding, VR and e-gaming, and a conference where high school students were invited to hear motivational speeches from female role models.



Croatia

[Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries, HAKOM](#), organized a round table to discuss the importance of education and promotion in the field of ICT starting from an early age and throughout the education system and the importance of additional extra-curricular activities aimed to encouraging many girls to direct their careers into ICT field. The discussion was particularly focused on the role of the industry in promoting ICT sector among young people and on guidelines that would help the society to encourage more girls to choose a career in the ICT.



Lemax (iTravel Software) held events for Girls in ICT Day for the third time under the name "[ICT Supergirls 2017](#)". Twenty students from local universities participated in the event, which had three parts: fun and instructive open day at the offices of Lemax, role models' speeches, and a contest where students tested their knowledge in IT. Prizes were also awarded, which included a chance to participated in a robotics lecture.



[The Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology \(FERIT\)](#) Osijek joined the Girls in ICT Day campaign for the first time and organised several activities for participating girls, including an open days event with information about the different study opportunities at FERIT. In addition, there were workshops on Arduino, digital music, photo editing, 3D modelling and electronics, among others.

Germany

The annual [Girls' Day](#) celebrations in Germany focus on attracting more girls and young women into STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The initiative is led by Kompetenzzentrum Technik-Diversity-Chancengleichheit e.V. and funded by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Family, Seniors, Women and Youth. In 2017, there were over 100.000 participating girls with more than 10.000 activities across the country. 1.200 events had a focus on ICT taking place in educational institutes and companies such as Microsoft, Nokia, Ericsson, FDM Group, Google, Vodafone and SAP. The initiative also has a high-level support as Chancellor Angela Merkel participates annually in the activities.

Ireland

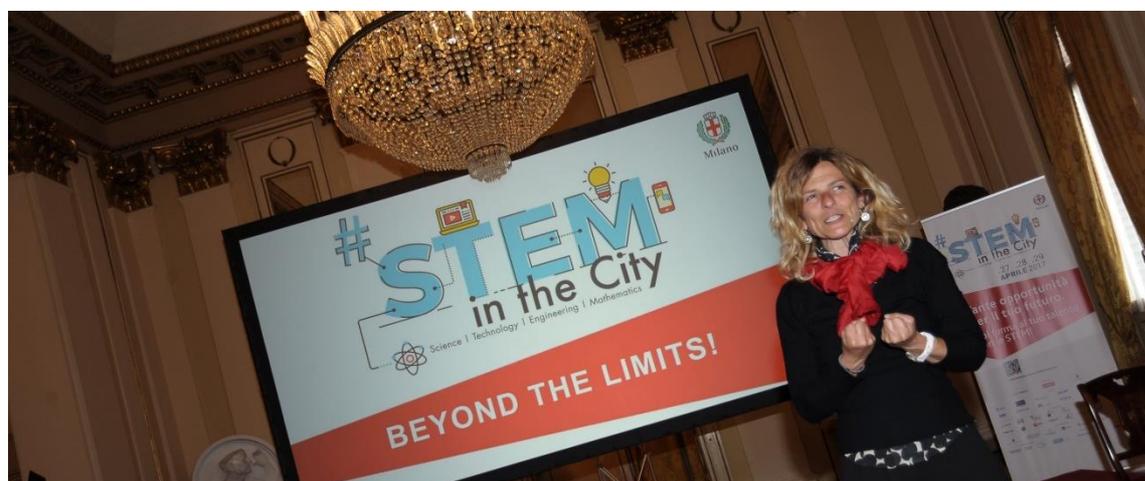
[Coder Dojo](#) has launched the Coder Dojo Girls initiative aiming to increase the global share of girls attending Dojos from 29% to at least 40% over the next three years and published a guide for parents and teachers on the topic. The Ireland chapter also held an event focused on creating wearable technology to celebrate Girls in ICT Day 2017.



Italy

[Enel Italy](#) held an event in cooperation with JA Italy at the Enel offices in Rome. The event that had 150 participating girls focused on giving the girls inspiration to follow their dreams through motivational presentations by role models and an exercise, in which girls built an “emotional wall” with paper boxes, on which they wrote their fears and obstacles. At the end of the event, the wall was torn down together so that figuratively speaking the participants could overcome their challenges and fears.

[Municipality of Milan](#) launched for the first time a campaign on the occasion of Girls in ICT Day titled #STEMintheCity. In the framework of the initiative, 84 training activities were taking place along the month of April, including events, classes, workshops, role-model meetings and guided visits. The activities were offered to parents, teachers and students from three years’ age upwards. The events reached over 1500 participants.



Potenza Chamber of Commerce joined the campaign for the first time in 2017 by organising an event for more than 80 students between 16 and 18 from the higher institutes of Basilicata and Lazio. The new regional digital initiative was presented at the conference that also featured high-level role model speakers from both public and private sectors.

[The region of Emilia-Romagna](#) also joined the campaign for the first time by launching an awareness-raising and information campaign. The campaign included video interviews from local role models. Linked to their new Digital Agenda, there will also be more activities later in the year for promoting ICT opportunities for girls and young people in general.

Lithuania

[Kaunas University of Technology](#) (KTU) has been an organiser for Girls in ICT Day in Lithuania for several years and this year, they partnered with ITU to bring 30 girls between the ages of 12-16 from Vilnius, Kaunas, Alytus, Klaipeda and Panevėžys to join sessions taking place as a side event to and at the same venue with ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM). More information about the event and the programme can be found below in the chapter “Events organised by ITU”.



Latvia

[Tele2](#) Shared Service Centre held an event at their offices titled "Girls Make IT Happen". The programme included several presentations made by role models discussing the opportunities in the ICT sector for women, different study options and the impact digital transformation is having in our economies and societies.



Montenegro

Creative agency [Bild Studios](#) joined for the first time the Girls in ICT Day campaign and organised an event in cooperation with an elementary school "Pavle Rovinski", located in Podgoricathe, and the Chamber of Economy Montenegro. The event was held at the school and featured a presentation by a role model, the General Manager of Bild Studios. She presented what kind of jobs women can have in the digital era and also included examples of the women in ICT that work at the creative agency.

Netherlands

[Girls' Day](#) celebrations focusing on all STEM fields are held annually also in the Netherlands. In 2017, there were over 10.000 participating girls that participated in more than 300 activities held in companies and different organisations across the country.

Poland

Polish public technical universities and STEM faculties take part in the annual "[National Open Day - For Girls Only](#)", where girls and young women participate in workshops, meet role models and learn about the STEM studies first hand. The day is organised as part of the campaigns "Girls as Engineers!" and "Girls go Science!", run by the Perspektywy Education Foundation and the Conference of Rectors of Polish Technical Universities (KRPUT) and supported by Minister of Science and Higher Education, Minister of National Education, Minister of Administration and Digitization; Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Patent Office and the Ombudsman.

Portugal

[Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações | Museu das Comunicações](#) celebrated Girls in ICT Day 2017 by launching a competition for digital art works. Award ceremony was held at the official Girls in ICT Day event and prizes were given to the best digital art works as well as to the "most inspiring" teacher. There was also a panel discussion focusing on the different aspects of the digital transformation and the opportunities it entails for women and girls.



[The Faculty of Sciences in the University of Lisbon](#) held an event that included roundtable discussions for both students and professors. There was also a programming workshop and information was shared about the different opportunities to study ICT-subjects at the University.



[Faculty of Science and Technology of the University NOVA Lisbon](#) joined the campaign for the first time in 2017. The event included a hands-on programming activity and a panel that featured different role models of female ICT professionals with as diverse profiles as possible.



[Executiva](#), a career website and platform for women, joined Girls in ICT Day also for the first time by holding a conference with the topic “Women in Tech”. In a panel discussion, the panellists were debating why is technology still a masculine field.



Serbia

[Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications](#) organised a conference at the Scientific Technology Park Belgrade with high-level speakers including the State Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Assistant Minister for Electronic Communications and the Director of the Technology Park as well as representatives of academia and private sector. The occasion was also used as an award ceremony for a blogging competition the Ministry had launched earlier. In addition, there were workshops on Minecraft and robotics.



Slovak Republic

[Ai Ty V IT](#) holds annually Girls' Day event in Slovakia with the purpose of attracting more girls and young women into STEM fields. In 2017, there were participation of more than 1.100 female high school students and 70 different activities in the whole country.



Slovenia

[OpenLab](#) held an event focusing on programming and the Internet of Things. The workshops included exercises with Arduino boards and Scratch programming language.

Spain

[Faculty of Informatics of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia](#) (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya) held a full-day event with three lectures by renowned ICT professionals and two workshops. The lectures discussed different aspects of digital development including also the opportunities provided by entrepreneurship and start-ups. The workshops focused on the topics of programming an app or robots.

[Galicia Supercomputing Centre, CESGA](#) held a range of activities to celebrate Girls in ICT Day 2017. In the morning, there was a virtual conference with role model speakers that was transmitted to around 700 students. In the afternoon, 40 girls participated in activities that included workshops on Scratch, LEGO Mindstorm, Minecraft, pixel-digital art and demonstrations of 3D printing, robotics and Virtual and Augmented Reality.



[Women in Tech Summits](#) were organised for the first time in conjunction with Girls in ICT Day both in Barcelona and Madrid. The full-day events included inspirational talks, workshops on 3D printing, robotics, and programming.

[Foundation of Cyber-volunteers](#) (Fundación Cibervoluntarios) organised a virtual discussion debating the opportunities for women in the field and the situation of the gender gap in the sector and the reasons behind it.



The Association of Women Engineers and Technologist-Aragón (AMIT) launched a contest titled [Wikinformática](#). The purpose was not only to introduce high school students to the use of Wikis and structured data, but for the occasion of Girls in ICT Day 2017, use the opportunity to raise awareness of prominent women in ICT. 234 high school students, divided into 45 different teams, participated by creating several Wiki articles about prominent women in the field of ICT and their stories and history. The winners were announced on the 27th April 2017, as a celebration of the Girls in ICT Day.

[IBM Spain](#) held an event for the first time to celebrate Girls in ICT Day in collaboration with the Creatica Association. A total of 56 girls between the ages of 10 and 11 attended the activities in IBM Client Center in Madrid. In three rotating groups, the girls could join workshops on Lightpainting, in which girls were drawing with brushes they built themselves with simple electronic circuits; Wind Tubes that explored the concepts of fluid dynamics; and Initiation to Robotics, where girls learned how to programme with Arduino boards and bitbloq programming language.



Professional Colleges of Engineering and Informatics in La Rioja (Colegios Profesionales de Ingenieros en Informatica de La Rioja ([C.P.I.I.R. y C.P.I.T.I.R](#))) joined the campaign for the first time by organising a video conference. The conference featured several professionals from the ICT sector sharing about their work and experiences and it was broadcasted to pupils in schools in the region.

[Regional Government of Andalucia](#) (Junta de Andalucia) through the Ministry of Equality and Social Policies, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Employment, Enterprise and Trade joined Girls in ICT Day campaign also for the first time by launching a contest titled "Women and the new digital professions". Students were invited to create articles and blog posts exploring the new ICT professions that have emerged thanks to digital transformation.

[Telefonica](#), GSMA and HP held a joint event at the Mobile World Centre Barcelona for girls aged between 12 and 16. In addition to talks and lectures, the girls could visit the Centre and take part in a Virtual Reality experience at the Virtual Escape Room of the Centre. In this strategic game, girls had to solve various puzzles by using VR glasses.

Sweden

[Inicio](#) and EIT Digital held a full-day event in cooperation with KHT Kista, Royal Institute of Technology, for around 100 girls in the Stockholm area. In addition to workshops, the event included as inspirational talk from Sweden's IT-girl of the year and a mini-fair with innovative start-ups showcasing their latest inventions. The workshops included BubbleNode, where girls could learn the basics of electronics, try soldering and create small circuit, as well as Smart

Cities, where girls could brainstorm together with Ericsson professionals how would a street in the area look like in the future with integrated technology.



Switzerland

[Plan Switzerland](#) held a Girls in ICT Day event for the first time in cooperation with Google. The panel discussion held at Google offices in Zurich was titled “Unlock the Power of #Digitalgirls” and featured female ICT professionals and showcased strong positive examples of women leaders in the ICT sector.

United Kingdom

[GSMA](#) partnered with students from The Bridge Academy in Hackney to highlight the exciting learning and career opportunities in ICT. The event hosted a group of girls between 12-13 years old spending the day at Wayra, Telefónica’s start-up accelerator. In the workshops, the girls had the chance to work with developers to create a virtual reality (VR) experience. They also heard from several female role models, successful women in ICT sector.

[CAS \(Computing At School\) North East](#) in cooperation with Newcastle University and company Sage UK held two hands-on robotics workshops with girls from local secondary schools. In addition, they organised a ICT career Question & Answer session with women technologists from Sage UK.

[Oxfam UK](#) organised a Girls in ICT Day event for the first time by inviting around female 30 school students to their offices. The event included presentations from role models, among them Oxfam’s Chief Information Officer, as well as workshops demonstrating the role of ICT in the humanitarian field. Oxfam also raised awareness on Girls in ICT Day by publishing a blog post and video interviews.

Events in several European countries by multinational companies

[Cisco](#) participates in Girls in ICT Day campaign annually around the world in the framework of its Girls Power Tech initiative. In 2017 in Europe, activities such as mentoring exercise were

organised at Cisco offices in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey, and UK.

[Microsoft](#) celebrates Girls in ICT Day with activities at their offices linked to #MakeWhatsNext and DigiGirlz campaigns. In 2017, events were held in Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Norway and Spain. Microsoft also published a study on why European girls are not interested in STEM.

[Ericsson](#) held activities in 2017 in Europe in Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey.

[FDM Group](#) joined the campaign for the first time and organised activities in Frankfurt Germany and London, the UK.

Events organised by ITU

In Geneva, Switzerland, an event celebrations took place on April 27 at ITU Headquarters. The event saw the active participation of local schools, that have been organizing ICT-related activities in the lead up to International Girls in ICT Day. After the opening ceremony, the girls presented in an exhibit open to ITU staff and the diplomatic community the skills acquired during the workshops and activities organised by schools and partners.



[ITU Europe coordination](#) held an event in Lithuania as the event coincided with the [Regional Preparatory Meeting \(RPM\)](#) organised in Vilnius. ITU partnered with Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) and invited 28 girls for a half-day event. The opening ceremony included role models by KTU, ITU and the National Digital Initiative, after which the girls could experience demonstrations of VR. A virtual conference followed connecting the girls participating in Girls in ICT events in Vilnius, at ITU HQ in Geneva, Switzerland, and at a telecommunication operator company Alfa in Beirut, Lebanon. The sessions included welcoming remarks presented from different cities and from Vilnius by Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU-D), and a mobile app quiz game testing the girls' knowledge on ICT related questions. The video-conference was followed by

a presentation of the winning projects from Lithuania's biggest annual robotics and technology competition, Robotiada and a robotics workshop. RPM delegates were also invited to a showcasing Girls in ICT Day panel session during the lunch break, where Dr Danguole Rutkauskiene from KTU together with three participating girls discussed the different ways to motivate girls into ICTs.

INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY 2017 Celebrations

Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania



3. Towards International Girls in ICT Day 2018

International Girls in ICT Day 2018 will be observed on 26 April 2018. All Member States, Sector Members, Associates, Academia and other stakeholders are encouraged to join the global movement to empowering girls and young women through ICTs by organising activities to celebrate the day on and around 28 April 2018.

Organisers are welcome to design and create their own programme most suitable for the local context and 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](#). Past Girls in ICT Day events published on the Girls in ICT Day Portal may also serve as inspiration.

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