# Girls in ICT Day 2018 –
## Activities in Europe



**Expand horizons,
Change attitudes**

**Girls in ICT
Celebrations**

April
in Europe Region

#GirlsinICT
itu.int/girlsinict

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# 1. Introduction

International Girls in ICT Day 2018 was celebrated around the world on 26 April 2018. 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 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 2018, activities were held at least in 30 countries. 2018 edition saw many new innovative approaches to celebrate the day as well as fruitful collaborations between stakeholders from different sectors. In total, over 40,000 girls and young women joined for around 2,000 different activities. 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.

**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 2018 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. 2018 activities in Europe

**Albania**

Albanian ICT Academy joined the Girls in ICT Day campaign by organizing a whole week of activities for girls of three age groups; aged 10 to 15, 15 to 18 and University students from STEM fields. The activities included a hackathon, various different types of workshops and open lectures on different topics linked to digital society and economy.

Eestec Tirana and Ivanaj Foundations co-organized an event called DevelopHer – Girls in ICT Albania for high school girls between 15 - 18 years. The event tackled stereotypes about ICT sector and presented success stories of Albanian women, who have had inspiring careers in ICT. In addition to discussions on ICT careers, the importance of cyber security was highlighted. After the discussion, girls took part in a workshop on programming apps.



**Austria**

E&Y, Microsoft, Cisco and Ericsson all organized activities in Austria (see section on Private sector events in several European countries)

**Belgium**

Microsoft Europe in partnership with UNESCO organized a #MakeWhatsNext: Changing the Face of STEM -event in Brussels. The event released new research, debated the road blockers in STEM education, shared interactive technology demos that hack STEM learning and showcased inspirational female role models that are enabling more girls and women to participate and transform the digital economy.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Association of Professors and Informatics Teaches of the Tuzla Canton initiated the Girls in ICT Day celebrations in primary and secondary schools. At the primary school of Srebrenik, girls had the chance to take part in STEM workshop that included programming of mBot

robots. Rapatnica elementary school held a conference, which was attended by teachers and girls from all eight primary schools in the Srebrenik municipality. The conference included a roundtable discussion and two workshops on robotics and practical computer skills. Girls also had the opportunity to use a Smartboard, and a presentation by graphic design artist informed the girls about the application of ICT in graphic design.



The Upper Secondary School of Electrical Engineering Tuzla (Elektrotehnicka skola Tuzla) organized an event with role models who shared their stories and information about their careers and typical days at work with the participating girls. Girls could also freely ask questions allowing them to have invaluable information to make decisions about their future study choices.



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, Innovation Center Banja Luka (ICBL) and Center for Advanced STEM Education for Children and Youth – ROBOKIDS. Firstly, they announced a competition for best solutions for solving problems in their local communities through ICTs. "Open doors" -events were held on 24th April, which included presentation of the project SAFIKADA, workshop Encryption through games and workshop Lego Mindstorms programming, encoding, VR and online gaming. Moreover, on 27th April, a panel discussion was organized, where young people had the opportunity to discuss the opportunities offered by ICTs and visit the first smart building in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IT Girls BiH held an online competition with the topic "Build mobile apps that matter" and organized an event where the best teams could present their app ideas. The event also featured successful role models, with whom the girls could discuss in the format of World Café. The winning teams were matched with mentors and local IT companies who will support them in developing prototypes of their mobile apps for the purpose of applying with their ideas to the European Youth Awards competition.



**Bulgaria**

Coding Girls Sofia and Uber Engineering marked Girls in ICT Day by holding a networking event, where plans about their upcoming collaboration to promote diversity in ICT were released.

ITU Europe coordination jointly with European Commission organized a Girls in ICT Day event on 28 April in Sofia (see section Events organized by ITU).

**Croatia**

Lemax organized for the fourth time an event under the name ICT Supergirls 2018. Students from local universities and high schools took part in activities and could meet guest speakers including Croatian women entrepreneurs, network with them and also get to know the team of Lemax.

ICT company KING ICT joined the Girls in ICT Day campaign by organizing an event which informed girls about the ICT industry and the vast possibilities the industry offers. Representatives of KING ICT shared about the company's perspective on why gender equality is important and what can be done to bridge the gender gap from the point of view of private sector.



**Cyprus**

Microsoft Europe held activities in Cyprus in the framework of #MakeWhatsNext initiative (see section on Private sector events in several European countries)

**Czech Republic**

Gender Studies organized Girls in ICT Day for the sixth year. In collaboration with several ICT companies, the event allowed girls to visit offices, hear about interesting job positions, meet role models, and get a more concrete idea of what the work in the technical fields involves. Activities took place in Prague, Brno, Plzeň a Mladá Boleslav.

**Finland**

Plan International collaborated with Accenture to organize a workshop for 16-20-year-old girls and young women, including girls with migrant background whose Finnish skills are not yet fluent. In the workshop, the girls could meet their peers through the common language of

technology. The workshop introduced inspiring examples of girls and women creating new technical solutions around the world. With the support of experts from Accenture the girls learned about their opportunities in the field of technology and had an empowering experience in building their own robot. The workshop included a challenge of building a Lego robot and an opportunity to try out technological innovations and their applications such as virtual reality glasses.

**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. In 2018, 1.300 events had a focus on ICT and over 13.500 girls took part in these activities. The initiative also has a high-level support as Chancellor Angela Merkel participates annually in the activities



Future Legends joined the initiative for the first time by organizing graphic design and coding workshops for girls in different age groups. The graphic design workshop taught girls the basics of graphic design, e.g. how to design, sketch and create a logo and the difference between print and web design. In the coding workshop, girls learned computational thinking, coding principles, and block-based programming, while engaging in hands-on, digital, and offline activities.
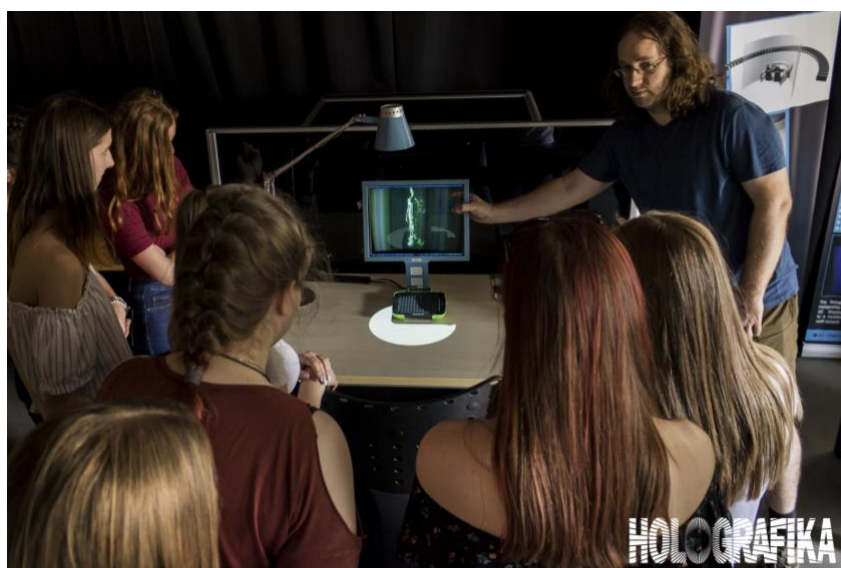
**Greece**

Ericsson's contest to mark Girls in ICT Day had participants also from Greece (see section on Private sector events in several European countries)

**Hungary**

Holografika held an "Open Doors" -event for 13 girls, aged between 16-18. The program included a presentation about the principles of the 3D technology and demonstrations with three different type of holographic displays. Participants also had the chance to talk to the engineers about the challenges they face in their everyday work.



Ericsson collaborated for several activities in Hungary. Coding Dojo was organized for University students, who could programme together with an Ericsson employee. With the SKOOL foundation, Ericsson held a workshop on basic programming between the ages of 15-18. In the workshop, girls learned programming language Python and developed an app, as well as visited the premises of Ericsson and met the employees. In partnership with Women in Science Association, an "Open Day" – event was held for 60 girls from high school and upper secondary school. At this event, girls could meet Ericsson employees in an informal environment, have free discussions, bake pizza together and hear about their experiences of choosing technical careers.

**Iceland**

In Iceland, Girls in ICT Day was organized in collaboration with [Reykjavik University](), Ský (The Icelandic Computer Society) and Samtök iðnaðarins (Federation of Icelandic Industries). This year around 750 girls from 9th grade took part in the day. Girls could visit the University and around 30 technology companies, meet role models, as well as select between different workshop activities.



**Ireland**

Microsoft Europe and Cisco held activities also in Ireland (see section on [Private sector events in several European countries]()).

**Italy**

[Potenza Chamber of Commerce]() held a Girls in ICT Day event for 80-100 high school students. Special guests of the meeting in 2018 included the president of the National Youth Forum and the legal area head of CA Technologies Italy, who has conducted research on the digital gender gap and presented this. Event also included presentations of local women entrepreneurs working in ICTs and a guided tour of the Potenza's fablab.

Enel Digital Solutions held events in Rome, Italy and in Madrid, Spain. Panel discussions addressed the importance of STEM subjects for the future job market and the severe situation of current low numbers of female participation in STEM studies and careers. In Italy, only 13% of the ICT workforce are women and in Spain, 30% of STEM faculty students and 3% of STEM graduates are women. Event participants also got to meet the star of the events, a humanoid robot named Pepper.

STEM in the City is an initiative led by the City of Milan to develop a "STEM-oriented" culture free from gender barriers and stereotypes to help guide young women to studies and careers in fields of science and technology. For the whole month of April, the initiative organized trainings, discussions, guided tours, meetings with role models, and other events, a total of more than 100 events that drew the participation of over 100 schools and 10,000 participants. The events were accompanied by a promotional campaign that, given the issues involved and the young age of the intended targets, was carried out via digital means that ensured high visibility.



**Lithuania**

Kaunas University of Technology (KTU) collaborated with Smart Tech Academy to held an event titled "Digital Girls: rock IT on". 140 girls from grades 9 to 11 participated in the event where they were able to discuss career opportunities, stereotypes, motivation and fears about

the ICT sector. The event was broadcasted live and girls from all over Lithuania could join online. After the discussion, girls participated in the interactive quiz and were invited to participate in the best photo contest and register for workshops. The workshops included virtual and augmented reality laboratory; design laboratory exploring why ICT is important in the fashion industry; Internet of Things workshop and laboratory of soldering.



### Luxembourg

Women in Digital Empowerment joined the Girls in ICT Day initiative for the first time by holding a full-day event, with the presence of the Minister of Equality of Opportunities. Around 50 participating girls could choose from a range of workshops including video-game design, cyber security, BBC micro:bit, Ruby on Rails, 3D Printing, and Robotics. After the workshops, a conference was organized for the girls, parents, teachers and general public.

### Malta

The eSkills Malta Foundation celebrated Girls in ICT Day by organizing a launch event of their "Guidelines to Increase and Retain Women in ICT" report. These guidelines are aimed at all the relevant stakeholders, be they small, medium and large enterprises together with NGOs, gender equity advocacy coalitions, the media, educators, career advisors, the government and decision makers. The launch was attended by Minister for European Affairs and Equality and the Parliamentary Secretary for Financial Services, Digital Economy & Innovation, who both also joined the panel discussion.

### Netherlands

Girls' Day celebrations focusing on all STEM fields are held annually also in the Netherlands. In 2018, there were over 10,000 participating girls that participated in more than 300 activities held in companies and different organisations across the country.

### Norway

The Norwegian Data Society in collaboration with Oda Networks, Girl Geek Dinner, Learn Kids Encoding and Media City Bergen organized an event that included practical workshops, tours in ICT organizations and presentations from inspiring female role models.

**Poland**

Ericsson's contest to mark Girls in ICT Day had participants from Poland and Cisco held activities also in Poland (see section on [Private sector events in several European countries](#))

**Portugal**

[Fundação Portuguesa das Comunicações | Museu das Comunicações](#) organized a television programme workshop that addressed the importance of increasing the number of women in the ICT areas. The participants were challenged to create a TV programme script about the topic, which was later recorded. Afterwards the girls could watch videos about ICT related topics and discuss about their experiences and views concerning creating a more gender balanced ICT sector.



[The Faculty of Sciences in the University of Lisbon, Department of Informatics](#) joined the celebrations of Girls in ICT Day for the fourth time by organizing an event, which brought together professional women in executive and managerial positions in Portuguese and international companies, women in charge for recruiting human resources in ICT, university professors and researchers, secondary school teachers and former and current students of the DI-FCUL. Furthermore, the programme included a programming workshop and information session concerning the ICT-subjects available to study at the University.

Geek Girls Portugal  joined Girls in ICT Day by organizing activities for girls between the ages of 13 to 17. Girls could attend workshops and presentations of professionals working in the ICT sector, tackling prejudice about the field. Teachers could also join to acquire more information about the study and career opportunities in the field of ICT.

The government of Portugal has been developing a pilot project entitled "Engenheiras Por Um Dia", with the aim of informing and inspiring girls about the fields of technologies and engineering as areas of work. The project involved 16 public schools located in 15 different municipalities and 24 female engineers who visited the schools as role models and held mentoring sessions.



The National Cybersecurity Center (CNCS) organized for the second consecutive year a Girls in ICT Day event, with the aim to discuss bridging the gender gap in ICT sector in Portugal. The event featured a panel discussion with ICT professionals. There was also an online connection to other Girls in ICT Day events taking place in Portugal. Moreover, students from various schools had the chance to present their projects on digital literacy and education.

**Romania**

Girls in ICT Day 2018 was marked by a celebration organized jointly by CEPT and ITU during the meeting of Com-ITU of CEPT in Bucharest (see section Events organized by ITU).

Andrei Association celebrated Girls in ICT Day by organizing an information event for their members and collaborators addressing the crucial importance of female participation in the ICT sector.

**Serbia**

Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications organized an event titled "Be in IT!" to celebrate Girls in ICT Day for the 8th consecutive year. Celebrations included four panel discussions hosted by professional women in executive and managerial positions in private and public sectors, followed by a World Cafe discussion, where students could also share their opinions. In addition, over 230 girls from 8 different elementary schools across Serbia were present at the event, where they will present their short vlogs on the assigned topic, followed by an award ceremony for the best works.

ICT Cluster Zrenjanin organized one day workshop on Technical Faculty "Mihajlo Pupin" in Zrenjanin. The workshop was led by representatives of three IT companies Levi 9, Vega it and Consulteer. The workshop was attended by students of the technical faculty as well as secondary school students from the territory of the city of Zrenjanin. A total of 50 girls took part in the event.

For the second time in Serbia, Met Lab and University Metropolitan organized the Girls in ICT Day under the name "Girls Can Code 2018" hackathon, which is the only hackathon in Serbia targeted for girls. The 24-hour competition allowed 11 student participants from Serbian universities to have the opportunity to learn new technologies, develop their ideas, work in teams and have fun.

**Slovakia**

Aj Ty V IT holds annually Girls' Day event in Slovakia with the purpose of attracting more girls and young women into STEM fields. In 2018, there were 870 girls across the country taking part in 42 different programs. The activities included panel discussions with role models, Virtual Reality demonstrations, 3D printing, and mobile app workshops, among others.

**Spain**

In collaboration with Orange Foundation, EDYTA and Womenteck programmes held activities targeted for Roma girls and young women to encourage them to consider studies and careers in ICT. The event included discussions and a workshop.

Galicia Supercomputing Centre, CESGA held a range of activities to celebrate Girls in ICT Day 2018. In the morning, there was a virtual conference with female entrepreneurs, researchers and other professionals in the field of ICT. In addition to the online conference, participants could take part in robotics demonstrations, 3D printing, workshops on programming and digital art, and guided visits to the Centre. Around 500 participants took part in the event onsite and online.

[Mujeres Tech](#) in collaboration with [CLOQQ](#) organized a full day event with two workshops. Younger girls could take part in "Apollo Space Program" workshop where they had the chance to take part in a space journey through programmes of Scratch and Makey Makey. At the same time, a design thinking and creative technology workshop was organized for adults.

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

[Oviedo Emprende](#) and [CTIC Technology Centre](#) organized a range of activities to commemorate Girls in ICT Day. Within the framework of the Gijón SmartKids Project, students from educational centers in the municipality of Gijón visited the "Mile of Knowledge" and had the opportunity to meet role models, including researchers and other ICT professionals and learn about the current projects they are working on. Additionally, a networking activity was held that brought together women working in the ICT sector to get to know each other, exchange contacts and initiate collaborations. Finally, a breakfast event was organized allowing more than 70 pupils and teachers from the 5th grade of a primary school to attend to meet inspiring role models and learn first-hand about working in the ICT sector.



[STEM Talent Girl](#) event was organized in collaboration with the company [Solid GEAR](#) activities in Burgos which included a mobile application workshop, where girls learned about developing apps and were encouraged to consider ICT-related studies and careers.
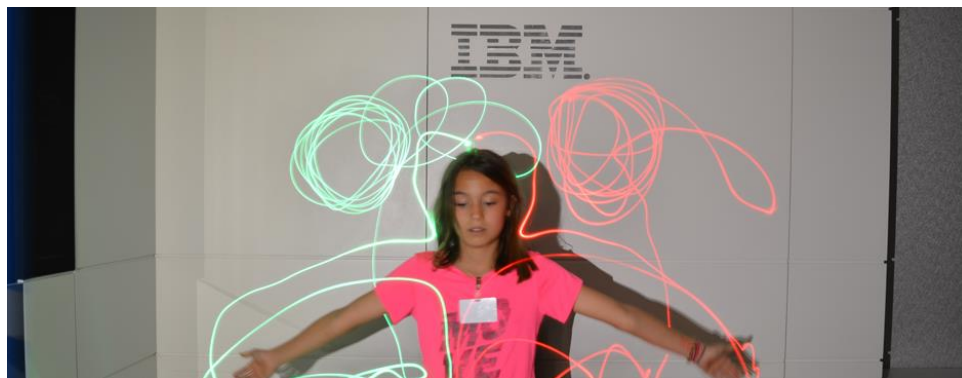
The Association of Women Researchers and Technologists from Aragón AMIT-Aragón organized this year the 3rd edition of the program "A Female Engineer in every School". More than 120 women engineers from University of Zaragoza, CSIC and private sector visited primary schools to lead hands-on workshops with young students to show them how engineers work. Through more than sixty sessions, more than 3000 students were reached in Aragón. The workshops ranged from computing, design, mechatronic and robotics to material science and biotechnology, depending on the age of the students, with a proactive attitude of self-efficiency and promoting team-work to achieve results. In addition, AMIT-Aragon held the contest WikinformáticA! designed to achieve collaborative work to create Wikis among High Schools students and in particular disclosing the history of prominent women in the field of ICT.



Enel Digital Solutions also organized activities in Madrid (see section on Italy).

IBM Spain celebrated International Day of Girls in ICT with a Second Edition of a Science and Technology workshop at the IBM Client Center of Madrid. Around 50-60 girls aged between 10 and 11 were invited to participate and learned how to programme with Arduino boards and bitbloq programming language.

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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 by organizing a video conference. The conference targeted for pupils from grades 4 to 6 featured several professionals from the ICT sector and senior public sector officials sharing about their work and experiences.

The Polytechnic School of University of Lleida held an event for 65 students aged between 12 to 16. The event included a roundtable discussion with role models and a presentation of an ICT project.



Polytechnical University of Catalania marked the day with five conference events at different campuses and schools of engineering and telecommunications. At these events, participants could learn about the University's study opportunities, hear presentations from role models and also take part in practical workshops.

Open University of Catalania also celebrated by organizing an award ceremony for awarding the most promising young female researchers in the field of ICT. The award was given as part of the initiative "Premio equit@T".

The educational association ITSCool held a conference in Barcelona, in which the findings of their latest study were released. In line with the study's findings, a round table discussion was organized to address the future demands of the job market and how educational system can be adjusted to answer these.

Ingenia joined the Girls in ICT Day campaign for the first time by organizing an information campaign about their commitment to gender equality and a full-day event with activities including a workshop on cybersecurity. In the workshop, the participating girls could learn from experts in an educative and fun way how to safely use the internet.



Ping a Programadoras commemorated Girls in ICT Day by organizing a Scratch workshop. The workshop was designed for both mothers and daughters so that they could continue the exercises together at home.

**Sweden**

Inicio in cooperation with Svensk Eletronik and EIT Digital invited 100 girls, of ages 13 – 19, to participate in a full day of hands on activities, case studies and an inspirational talk. The theme was "Health and Well-being" and the girls built from scratch electronic devices that detect and measure pulse rate, breathing etc. The event took place at Kista Mässan hosted by the Scandinavian Electronics Event (S.E.E).



**Switzerland**

Webster University held a Spotlight Seminar hosted by the Media Communications Department. The seminar explored the links between emerging technologies and the human rights of women and girls. It also explored the potential of these technologies to create equality drawing on both the challenges and the best practices of how technology is being used to advocate for girls' rights and to empower women and girls.

The Federal Office of Communications joined Girls in ICT Day celebrations for the fourth time. This year the full-day event included a workshop on Abode Pro on the theme media and informatics and girls could meet female role models working at OFCOM.

Swisscom held a full-day event "Digital Days for Girls", where participating girls could meet role models with jobs in the digital world and especially learn about the everyday work related to informatics and media-informatics.

**Turkey**

Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) opened doors to 150 girls who are under protection of child welfare system and 150 foster-mothers to welcome them at its headquarter for several activities. The event included a training on "Safer and Conscious Use of ICTs and the Internet" in two modules for both the girls and the mothers. Afterwards the participants could visit ICTA's "Experience Center" which demonstrates various new technologies and ICTA's "Safer Internet Truck" which is a mobile training and experiment facility that brings the new technologies to the people who have limited or no access to ICTs and/or the internet throughout the country.



Ministry of Family and Social Policies held a conference for over 200 participants. The event brought together accomplished role models in the field of ICT and students interested in ICTs. The purpose was to further encourage and support the female students to pursue a future in the field of ICT and raise awareness about the importance of ICTs in today's society.

**United Kingdom**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School organized a STEMettes afternoon club to celebrate the Girls in ICT Day. In the workshop, nine participating girls learned how to use Scratch and created with it a maze program.

FutureSkills I.T & Computing Centre of Excellence organized a full-day event for approximately 400 students from the IT & Computing, Media, Games and Journalism and Media Make Up departments. Workshops organized included building a computer, digital animation, 3D and special effects, Gaming, JavaScript and coding workshop. FutureSkills also launched a monthly Girls in ICT e-magazine published by the female IT & Computing students.

[Nations Ladies (NL)](#), a charitable organization with the purpose to inspire young girls from vulnerable communities, organized a full-day event as part of the Careers Day at the school. The event featured a talk by an innovative woman in tech business, who shared about her experiences in working in the digital space and social media. The talk also taught the participating girls the basics on how coding is the art of telling a computer how to perform complex tasks, encouraging girls to pick up programming classes.

[The BBC](#) celebrated International Girls in ICT Day by inviting local school girls and teachers into BBC Birmingham for a day of hands-on workshops and activities. The event demonstrated how ICT underpins so much of what BBC does as broadcasters and gave the girls the opportunity to meet and talk to women who work in STEM roles at the BBC. Activities include micro:bit and satellite workshops, BBC iPlayer and software accessibility and information and security challenges. Girls could also explore technology to consume, create and interact with content in the BBC Blue Room and learned how to present the weather in a broadcasting studio with a local weather presenter. There was also a video connection to the BBC office at the UN in Geneva, with a special guest appearance from the UK Ambassador.

**Private sector events in several European countries**

[EY](#) collaborated with [Digital Leadership Institute](#) to organize 24 events in schools for over 500 participating girls aged 11-15, in **Austria**, Germany and Switzerland. The events included mentoring activities, information on why we need more Girls in ICT and smartphone app-coding classes, using the MIT App Inventor for Android platform. This way girls could learn in a playful manner how digitalization affects our daily lives and future and. Girls also got to code a Translation App, which they could immediately start using on their smartphones, and test VR goggles.

Cisco participates in Girls in ICT Day campaign annually around the world in the framework of its Girls Power Tech initiative. In 2018 in Europe, activities such as mentoring exercise were organised at Cisco offices in Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and UK.

Ericsson launched a competition "Girls Who Innovate" that challenges young innovators to imagine how technology can chance the future of education. The winners are awarded with job shadow days, exclusive blogging opportunities, social media features and a €1,000 prize to be used for educational purposes. From Europe, the contest had participants from Albania, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and UK.

Microsoft celebrates Girls in ICT Day with activities at their offices linked to #MakeWhatsNext initiative. In 2018, events were held in 16 European countries and engaged more than 3,600 school students, teachers, policy makers and members from the wider developer and business community. Besides hearing from inspiring STEM role models and taking digital trainings, girls had the opportunity to get in touch with Microsoft's newest technology including VR and robotics.

**Events organised by ITU**

The ITU Geneva Girls in ICT Day 2018 event took place at ITU HQ in Geneva. The celebrations saw the participation of local schools and organizations for a half-day event which included opening remarks, mentoring sessions and a Girls in ICT Fair. During the mentoring session the girls had the opportunity to talk to successful female role models from the ICT sector, ask them questions on their experience and learn more about the opportunities different ICT related careers could offer them. The second part of the event was the Girls in ICT Fair, where local organizations active in the ICT field had dedicated booths where they showcased their technologies (including robotics, VR, Mbots, 3D printing, Lego Mindstroms, video games) and provided participating girls with the opportunity to personally try and learn how these were created and how they work.

ITU Europe coordination held an event in collaboration with European Commission on 28 April 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria, coinciding with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event was hosted by the University of National and World Economy in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications and Communications Regulation Commission of the Republic of Bulgaria. Event organization was also facilitated by EduTechFlag, Digital Europe, Digital National Alliance, Bulgarian Centre of Women in Technology, Coding Girls and Scientific Research Center for Business Competencies Development – Innovations and Competitiveness (u2b). As Bulgaria has one of the highest shares of female participation in the ICT sector in Europe, the occasion served as an opportunity to discuss the reasons behind achieving higher share of female ICT specialists and identify Bulgarian best practices to be shared among other European countries. The event included two streams of program running in parallel, namely Role Model panel discussion targeted for the general audience and especially for the students of UNWE and other Universities in Sofia, and workshops organized for 60 local school girls between the ages 12-15. Altogether the event had over 250 attendees, including students, representatives of government, private sector, civil society, and Academia.



In Bucharest, Romania Girls in ICT Day 2018 was marked by a celebration organized jointly by CEPT and ITU during the meeting of Com-ITU of CEPT in Bucharest. During the celebration, the participating delegates could meet local role models and take part in an interactive exercise on gender equality.

## 3. Towards International Girls in ICT Day 2019

International Girls in ICT Day 2019 will be observed on 25 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 25 April 2019.

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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