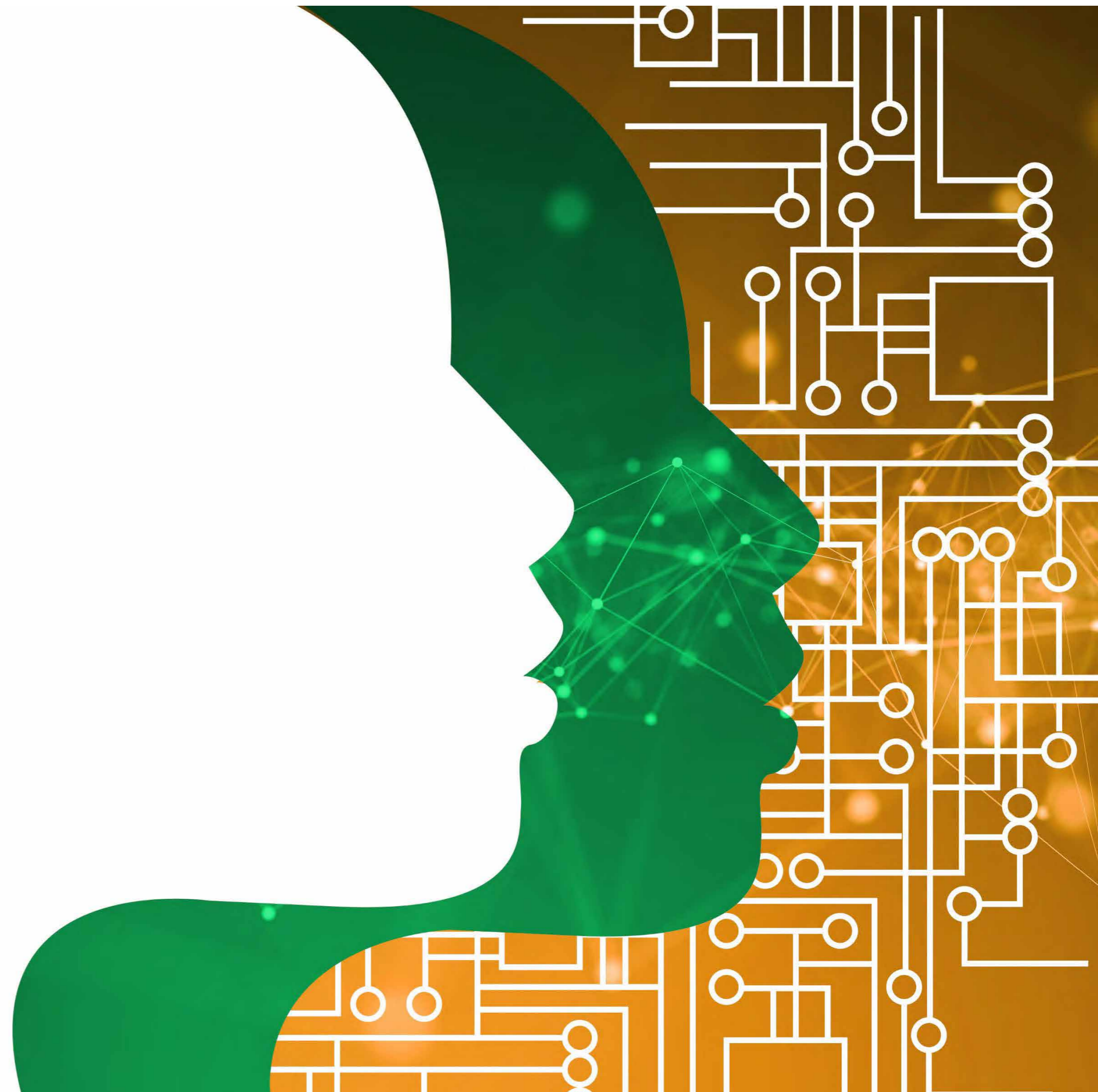# Girls in ICT

Digital Skills for Life

Toolkit 2023

Organising Girls in ICT events & year-long activities

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On Girls in ICT Day 2023, and throughout the year, we encourage you to organize events and activities to support girls as they learn about STEM, and help them benefit fully from the power of technology.

Share your virtual celebrations, photos, testimonials and discussions through digital platforms such as TikTok, Zoom, Skype, Jabber, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Facetime, Snapchat and many more. You are also encouraged to submit photos from your events, programmes and activities to the Girls in ICT Day Events Map in the Online Portal .

To spark the interest of girls to join your virtual celebration, try to be specific, creative, and innovative. It is also important to allow your audience to understand the objective of your activity and the expected outcomes.

The following are suggestions to help you kickstart the organisation of your Girls in ICT Day virtual celebration and year-long movements. As such, we encourage you to continue your contribution to this global effort by organising an inspiring event to celebrate the Day on 27 April 2023 and beyond.

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ITU

Online Training on Coding

What

It is essential that girls are introduced to coding and programming in today's digital world. Coding can be a creative tool to have fun while learning new information and exploring new ideas. It can help girls develop skills in problem-solving, logic, imagination, communication, collaboration, brainstorming, multitasking and design!

How

There are several companies and organizations that offer coding trainings online, and some of these are free of charge. Some examples of coding trainings that can be found online are: Code.org, Codeacademy, Khan Academy, Mozilla Webmaker, edX and Made with Code.

A success story

In Liberia, the Ministry of Gender and Development in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in Liberia and iLab Liberia organised a training for girls on programming with Python, developing mobile apps, and more. We invite you to be inspired by this on-site event and use your creativity to transform it into a valuable virtual activity. More information on this event can be found here.

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ITU

Web-based Robotics Training

What

Online workshops on robotics provides girls with a remarkable opportunity to experience 'building the future'. By organising this activity, you can enable girls to learn how to write and run simple robotics programming in order to carry out simple tasks such as movement, LED display and many more.

How

You can find out more about robotics online courses on Coursera for Top-Notch Robotics Programs Online, Udemy for Niche Robotics Courses, FutureLearn, MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW) and more.

A success story

The Women in Technology in Nigeria (WITIN) organised an event where girls had the opportunity to learn basic robotics programming. In addition to web-based robotics training, girls benefited from learning about leadership skills, mobile-applications and digital storytelling. This hybrid event in Nigeria, which helped just under 5,000 girls from public schools and underrepresented communities can be used as inspiration for your own events.
More information on this event can be found here.

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Virtual Hackathon

What

Hackathons are competitions where several teams are competing to create the most innovative ideas and concepts for prototypes that innovate on a theme or improve upon an existing project. In an online hackathon all participants are remotely connected. A virtual hackathon thus gives everyone the opportunity to participate (irrespective of their location), showcase their skills, and have fun while being innovative and creative.

How

With the help of developers, you could create your own online platform to build your hackathon for the GICT Day celebration, or you could use existing platforms like the ones offered by companies such as Agorize and HackerEarth. You can take inspiration from what other organizations such as HackBrightAcademy and Hack Like a Girl have created for virtual hackathons.

A success story

A Girls in ICT Caribbean Hackathon took place in Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Guyana and Tobago. The organisers provided empowering hands-on experience for the girls in the use of technology to build innovative products. We invite you to be inspired by this on-site event and use your creativity to transform it into a valuable virtual activity. More details about the event can be found here.

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Mobile Application Building

What

Learning to build mobile applications is an empowering way for young people to move from technology consumption to technology creation. Learning these skills can offer girls the opportunity to create exciting solutions to achieve social impact for their communities while using technology.

How

Make use of online tools such as: AppShed, App Inventor and App Inventor 2, Ratchet, LiveCode, and many more. These online applications can enable everyone, including children, to build fully functional apps for smartphones and tablets. Some are even free of charge, so give them a try!

A success story

The United Arab Emirates Higher Colleges of Technology hosted a series of events aimed at enabling and encouraging its women students to experience technology in a highly interactive, fun and experiential manner. Among a wide range of activities, students had the opportunity to acquire skills to build mobile applications and later showcase them.

Innovate and transform this idea into a successful virtual GICT Day celebration! More details about the event can be found here.

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STEAM Learning

What

Integrating various education subjects can be very enriching for learners. With this idea girls can be encouraged to use their interest in technology to express their creativity and artistic talent. The result is exciting and engaging STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) activities!

How

Activities such as short-video creation and digital artworks can be supported through various online tools such as: GIMP, Inkscape, Scribus, Avidemux, Corel Draw, Glogster and more.

A success story

In India, volunteers from Oracle, the computer software company, offered girls in smaller cities multi-session training series aimed at increasing their representation, confidence, and performance in courses and careers in STEAM. Some activities included the creation of animations, stories, musical instruments, and games using Scratch by Raspberry Pi Foundation. Scratch enables girls to learn coding concepts and create interactive projects in a straightforward way. This idea could be revamped into a virtual event with the use of educational tools such as Google Classroom or Seesaw.

Further details regarding the event organised by Oracle can be found here.

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Online Blogging Competition

What

Conduct an online blogging competition for girls! Blogging can be an excellent platform for girls to demonstrate and improve their knowledge and skills on technology topics, while improving their talent in writing.

How

Blogging tools that you can use to organise an online blogging competition are WordPress, Tumblr and Blogger, among others.

A success story

Girls in Tech, in collaboration with Sites Builders, organised a blogging competition entitled 'We Can Tech It.' Girls learned how to write blogs before sharing their own blog posts, which detailed a current problem in their community and highlighted how a tech approach could accelerate a solution. Use this virtual event in Guyana as inspiration and use your creativity to transform it into an exciting virtual activity for your network!
More details on this blog competition can be found here.

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Live Dialogues

What

A web dialogue represents a great way to engage with your audience on the topics discussed in your event's agenda without them having to leave their homes. You can invite subject matter experts, role models and inspiring young girls to provide their perspective on the importance of fostering gender diversity in technical fields, the challenges faced, and the role that ICT professionals and organizations can play in overcoming some of these challenges.

How

To organise a web dialogue, you should choose the relevant topics of interest for your audience and the appropriate platform. Depending on the size of your audience, screen-sharing functionality, slides-sharing functionality, costs and other, you can use platforms such as Zoom, Cisco Webex, Google Hangouts, Skype, Livestorm, as well as other online applications. Participants can still have the option to get involved and ask questions and might even feel more confident to do so behind a screen. You can also widely promote your event and share information for interested audiences on how to join live and follow the discussions.

A success story

The ITU Area Office for CIS organised a Regional Videoconference Seminar on the occasion of the International Girls in ICT Day in 2019. The webinar was a success with an attendance of 60 on-site participants and 50 remote participants, from several countries across the region. For more details about the webinar click here.
We invite you to innovate and make your event virtual!

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E-mentoring

What

Mentorship programmes with women role models is an effective way to inspire girls to pursue careers in ICT. A recent ITU-GICT consultation was conducted to learn directly from the girls themselves on what programmes they would find most meaningful to overcoming the barriers and challenges they face in STEM education and careers. By organising mentorship programmes, you can provide girls with the essential foundation of confidence, courage, and support which girls often lack due to gender and societal stereotypes, in STEM education and careers.

How

Organising e-mentoring sessions provides a unique opportunity for girls to meet online successful women in tech who can provide advice to the girls, encourage them to build their confidence and knowledge, and inspire them to identify and embrace their aspirations for careers that incorporate their personal interest and skills in ICTs.

A success story

The Youth Can Do IT (YCDI) Women in IT in Jamaica launched a mentoring programme aimed at exposing girls and young women to the versatile and growing industry in ICTs. As well as provide them with the necessary skills, which encouraged girls to take a more proactive approach to fulfilling their aspirations. Through this programme, mentees can meet their mentors for the first time and be supported by a networking community. More details on the event can be found here.

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Technology for Good Online Innovation Challenges

What

It is no secret that technology brings together possibilities to design new ways to achieve social impact. Engaging girls in this type of activity will spark their creativity, provide team-working, and hands-on experience. Further, it allows them to make friends, network, and be part of a community that is supportive and provides a women's perspective to the challenges and solutions to their community's problems.

How

Launch challenges for different categories related to the SDGs and invite girls to design technological solutions to these challenges. To make this more interesting and collaborative, challenges can be tackled in teams and team members can be in different areas/regions of a country. Take inspiration from online platforms such as Innocentive and Agorize.

A success story

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Gender Center – Center for Equity and Equality of the Government of the Republika Srpska celebrated Girls in ICT Day with LANACO and Innovation Center Banja Luka (ICBL). This event aimed to solve girls' problems in their local communities by the use of technologies. The organisers used the conceptual designs to be a platform for the development of software products. Some programmes that are organised in the events include time coding, virtual reality, e-gaming, and the conference to celebrate Girls in ICT Day. More details on the event can be found here.

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- We encourage you to continue your contribution to this global effort by organising year-long programmes and activities, in addition to an inspiring event to celebrate the International Girls in ICT Day. Remember, your efforts will contribute to bridging the gender divide in the ICT sector and achieving women empowerment globally, while accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Maximise the use of technology to increase the outreach of your event, give girls and young women their own voice and connect girls across your country and beyond!
  Visit www.itu.int/girlsinICT to get more updates on Girls in ICT Day 2023 global events.

- It is important to note, however, that while technology and specifically the Internet can provide many benefits and endless supply of knowledge and information, it may pose risks and harms, especially where children are concerned. To safeguard the interactions and privacy of the girls participating in your events, we invite you to consult the Guidelines for Child Online Protection (COP), prepared by ITU and COP partners for a safer and more secure cyber world.

- Don't forget to share your activities using the **#GirlsinICT** hashtag, engage with us on Facebook, and submit your event to the Girls in ICT Day Events Map on the Portal, we will continue to map your virtual celebrations!

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