Who is who?

A PARTNERSHIP AMONG 5 EU COUNTRIES:

AUSTRIA, GERMANY, GREECE, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN

COORDINATOR:

EKEPIS
National Accreditation Centre
for Continuing Vocational Training (GR)

COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS:

- **EVREMATHIA AE** Educational Services (GR)
- **HALM** Hogskolan I Halmstad (Halmstad University); WiTEC (SE)
- **IMC** Information Multimedia Communication AG (DE)
- **KTH** Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan (Royal Institute of Technology) (SE)
- **NPC** Noorderpoort College Groningen (NL)
- **SEE** Hellenic Association of University Women (GR)
- **WU** Wien Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration (AT)
- **ZSI** Zentrum fur Soziale Innovation (Centre for Social Innovation) (AT)

What is it?

- A European project seeking to promote Young Girls to Science & Technology (SET) career paths
- A joint effort to collect female role models and best practices in SET careers
- A shared responsibility to inform for a choice
- A common goal to advance a change in the choice of women

Who is it for?

We aim at approaching young girls in high school at a time when they are asked to make choices about their future (educational & career choices)

We work together with:

- schools, universities, training providers
- research institutes
- industry
- employment agencies
- policy makers
- social partners

We gear our efforts to raising public awareness and participation.

Where can you find us:

- At our website address: www.IFAC-project.eu with useful information on our project, work, partners, news & events, contacts & useful links and many more.
- At our Information Portal: www.SET-career.eu, a virtual European community, with role models and successful stories and the possibility to interact on-line.

Why do we need to act?

Women are under-represented in the field of Science, **Engineering and Technology (SET).**

Low female participation means that women are less heard and publicized and, in turn, they have limited contribution in policy making.

Young women in secondary and tertiary education are less prepared than men to participate in the new, technologically advanced labour market. This makes them less competitive, they climb slower the career ladder and tend to receive lesser salary than male employees. Even when they are employed in technical or scientific professional fields, they have fewer possibilities for education and training to assist them in their professional development.

If women scientists are not visible and not seen to be succeeding in their careers, they cannot serve as role models to attract and retain young women in scientific professions. Moreover, the obstacles faced by women already in the job market have an immense impact on younger girls.

Participation of women in SET is an issue of equality, of long embedded gender stereotypes that dominate the field, gender bias and the need for women to reach out and grasp opportunities available to them.

Significant reasons behind low female participation in the field of SET are the pre-existing **stereotypes** that reinforce male dominance in the workplace and the **lack or limited information** on role models and best practices to act as exemplary cases of success.

The partnership seeks to address the issue of **choice.** We aspire the outputs of the project to be a catalyst for **change** in female participation in SET.

Our target group are **young women** (aged 16-18) in their high school years, at a time when they make their choices about their career. This is usually highly influenced by their social and school environment.

We believe that if young women have access to reliable information on options in technological professions and science careers, obstacles faced and successes achieved, they will be better prepared to decide and choose. Therefore, female participation in relevant sciences has the potential to be increased.

The project will focus on presenting **role models** and **best practices** to stimulate young girls towards SET in an effort to close the gender gap and make an important step in achieving parity in the long-term.

The IFAC project aims at:

- identifying reasons behind low female participation in SET
- providing access to accurate, objective and reliable information
- presenting role models and best practices
- sensitizing all those in a position to influence and bring about change
- stimulating young women to participate in SET
- making policy suggestions applicable not only to countries lagging behind in urging and retaining young women in SET careers but also across all EU member countries
- developing the mechanisms for sustaining the project's impact

The IFAC partnership collaborates closely for the challenging venture of ensuring target achievement, quality assurance, project impact and sustainability primarily through the development of the following:

- **website,** as a web-based electronic information platform
- **information portal,** through which role models will be projected
- **dissemination strategy** to promote the communication of the outcomes
- **open events,** which engage wider participation
- **policy paper,**providing policy suggestions and recommendations

YOUNG WOMEN IN ACTION

IFAC

Information for a choice:

Chances are Equal!

Technological Evolution & Scientific Research

Belong to You!

innovation 210 9712000

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Information for a choice:

Empowering Young Women through Learning for Technical Professions & Science career

Learning

Choosing

Succeeding

information
FOR A CHOICE
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- www.SET-career.eu
- www.IFAC-project.eu

WOMEN & SCIENCE
SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME