

A EUROPEAN VISION FOR INCLUSIVE DIGITAL EDUCATION

GEMS: Europe opens the digital future to girls' talent

Seven organisations from six countries bring together research, education and innovation to build more inclusive digital pathways.

19.5%

Share of women among employed ICT specialists in the European Union in 2024.

Source: Eurostat, data published in 2025.

In Europe, women accounted for only 19.5% of employed ICT specialists in 2024. Yet the new generations do not lack digital potential. What is often missing are accessible opportunities, relatable role models and learning environments that can challenge stereotypes. This is the challenge behind GEMS - Girls' Empowerment in Digital Skills, the Erasmus+ project connecting higher education, schools, vocational training and technological innovation to make the digital future more inclusive.

A European journey from evidence to experience

Launched on 1 October 2025 and running for 36 months, GEMS brings together seven organisations from Italy, Estonia, Slovenia, Spain, Cyprus and Austria. The project begins by listening to girls and young women: its European research explores motivations, barriers and experiences in ICT education, alongside the most promising educational practices.

The evidence gathered informs the development of methods and resources for gender-responsive university teaching. The journey continues with a free extracurricular programme for girls aged 14 to 19, built around hands-on technology activities, and a future mentoring experience connecting secondary school students with young women studying ICT. Research, educator training, practical experimentation and female role models thus become parts of one coherent strategy.

● **"Digital talent has no gender: it needs opportunity, confidence and room to grow."**



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Different expertise, one shared mission

The European dimension makes it possible to compare different education systems and cultural contexts, assessing which solutions can be adapted and transferred. Italian coordinator PMF S.r.l. combines project management with technological and web expertise. Tallinn University leads the initial research and the identification of good practices, while the University of Ljubljana contributes educational research, computer science teaching and quality assurance.

Universitat Ramon Llull - Blanquerna coordinates the development of the inclusive teaching framework, while Frederick University contributes its experience in gender equality in STEM and leads the educational and mentoring programmes. The Austrian centre ipcenter.at brings a vocational training perspective, practical testing with target groups and expertise in including people with fewer opportunities. The University of Catania strengthens communication, sustainability and the dissemination of results, while also contributing expertise in artificial intelligence and the mitigation of bias in digital systems.

Together, the partners aim to turn local knowledge and experience into resources that can be used beyond national borders. Expanding girls' participation in technology is not only about correcting an imbalance: it means enriching European innovation with more perspectives, creativity and talent.

Discover GEMS and follow the project's journey towards digital education where every girl can see a place for herself.

6

COUNTRIES

7

ORGANISATIONS

36

MONTHS

2025-2028

TIMELINE



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