



# Girls in ICT Day 2018

Event Co-organized by ITU & EC

Sofia, Bulgaria

Saturday 28 April 2018

## BACKGROUND and AGENDA

International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated annually around the world with the purpose to raise awareness on the growing importance of digital skills to pursue successful professional careers across sectors. The initiative 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), enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in the ICT sector.

To date, over 300,000 girls and young women have taken part in more than 9,000 celebrations of International Girls in ICT Day in 166 countries worldwide. At these events, girls and young women have had the opportunity to experience technology first-hand in workshops, meet role models and learn about the wide range of educational and professional opportunities the sector offers. In Europe, Girls in ICT Day has been celebrated in 43 countries by governments, the civil society, companies, schools and universities.

ICT sector is marked by a pressing need for a wide range of ICT talents. Companies are looking to attract and promote women, because achieving greater workforce diversity is good for business. The sector needs new talent and currently, not enough students, especially female students, are preparing themselves for studies in math, engineering, computing and sciences. Supporting the education of women and girls in the ICT sector is also in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 5, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls through ICT, among others.

The joint ITU and European Commission celebration of Girls in ICT Day 2018 will take place on 28 April 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria, coinciding with the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Bulgaria has one of the highest shares of female participation in the ICT sector in Europe<sup>1</sup>. The occasion will hence also serve 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.

Up to 75 local girls (between the ages of 12–16) will be invited for the event that will give them the opportunity to experience ICTs in fun and educative workshops (e.g. coding, app development, VR/AR experiences) as well as meet local role models. The event will also include a panel discussion featuring high level speakers addressing the topics of the pipeline of women and girls in the ICT sector.

**Website:** [www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/GinICT/Girls\\_in\\_ICT.aspx](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/GinICT/Girls_in_ICT.aspx)  
**ITU Girls in ICT Portal:** [www.itu.int/girlsinICT](http://www.itu.int/girlsinICT) | **Twitter Hashtags:** #GirlsInICT #SDG5

<sup>1</sup> According to Eurostat (18 July 2017), Bulgaria has the lowest share of male ICT specialists in EU, 69.2 %  
[ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8115840/9-18072017-AP-EN.pdf/b775e424-a14c-4037-9b33-5cc97164bc11](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8115840/9-18072017-AP-EN.pdf/b775e424-a14c-4037-9b33-5cc97164bc11)





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[ul. "8-mi dekemvri", 1700 Studentski Kompleks]

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## DRAFT AGENDA

14:00 – 14:30 **Welcome Refreshments**

14:30 – 15:00 **Opening Ceremony [Plenary]**

Welcome by Host: Prof. D.Sc. Statty Vasilev Stattev, Rector of the University of National and World Economy  
Message by H.E. Ms Iliana Iotova, Vice-President, Republic of Bulgaria

- Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union
- Ms. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner, Digital Economy and Society, European Commission

15:00 – 16:00 **Role Model Panel Discussion [StreamOne]**

[Policy level discussion on Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” and actions at International, Regional and Country level encompassing the role of Industry and Civil Society in building equal opportunities for Girls. The discussions and possible future actions will be captured in an outcome report.]

**Setting the Context and Moderation by Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe**

- H.E. Ms. Zornitsa Roussinova, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy
- H.E. Mr. Ivan Dimov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science
- Hon. Mr. Andrey Novakov, Member of European Parliament
- Ms. Tayra Ridvaeva, Young Girls in ICT Role Model
- Ms. Sasha Bezuhanova, Founder and Chairperson, The Bulgarian Centre of Women in Technology (BCWT), Founder and Chairperson at MOVE.BG
- Ms. Monika Kovachka-Dimitrova Chief Project Manager, CSR Lead, SAP Labs Bulgaria
- Ms. Nelly Ilieva, Sales Director, Dell EMC Bulgaria
- Mr. George Alexandrov, Managing Director, Oracle Bulgaria
- Prof. Dr. Kamelia Georgieva Stefanova, Dean of Faculty of Applied Informatics and Statistics, University of National and World Economy





**16:00 – 16:45** *Visit to the Workshops, Press Statements and Coffee Break*

**15:00 – 16:45** **Workshop Sessions for Girls [Stream Two for Girls 12-15 Years]**

*[Girls from three schools in different Bulgarian towns are invited to discover ICTs first hand through a set of educative and fun hands-on workshops. In addition, they will meet inspiring local role models in a speed mentoring session.]*

- First steps in programming with MIT Scratch by Coding Girls
- Developing mobile apps - Inspirations for girls' digital skills development by EduTechFlag
- Experiencing robotics and virtual reality by Technokrati and BCWT
- Speed mentoring by
  - SAP
  - DELL
  - VMWare
  - Coding Girls
  - Rails Girls Sofia
  - Coder Dojo Sofia

**16:45 – 17:20** **Presentation of Participation Certificates to Girls [Plenary]**

*[Each Girl receives a participation certificate]*

**17:20 – 17:30** **Closing ceremony [Plenary]**

