

Peer learning sessions of the 2021 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region

Presentation of policy practices as a basis for the peer learning discussion

Choose an item.

<p>Title of intervention, country and name of presenter</p>	<p>Coding School for Women</p> <p>Nino Enukidze, Rector, Business and Technology University</p> <p>Georgia</p>
<p>Brief description</p>	<p>In 2019, Business and Technologies University initiated a femtech initiative, under the project "Coding School for Women", which aims at strengthening the role of women in the technological sector, supporting digitalization and increasing inclusivity in Georgia. The utmost goal of BTU is to inspire future tech leaders and support them through the network of already successful female members working across a multitude of industries and tech disciplines. BTU plans to continue the Femtech project for further development of tech skills in women nationwide and the WIT network through the online platform. Coding school, WIT camps, workshops and other activities will continue to get more girls interested and involved to strengthen sustainability even more.</p> <p>some of the projects already executed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AI Training Course for Women ● UI/UX Training Course for Women ● Front-end Development Course ● Back-end Development Course ● Training in Entrepreneurship ● Raising Awareness Campaigns ● Plans to open iOS & Android Lab for Girls

<p>Policy goal(s) or challenge(s) to be addressed</p>	<p>Gender perceptions in Georgia place men in a dominant position in many areas of social, economic and political life. Data confirms persistent inequalities between women and men. There is a significant gender gap in labour force participation with the gender wage gap reaching 35 per cent. Women’s entrepreneurship is limited. Female-headed households, marginalized social groups among the internally displaced and conflict affected populations, and women from other excluded groups often experience poverty or at a high risk. Women’s political participation is low with women only constituting 11 per cent of parliamentarians in the national and local governments. Violence against women and girls in Georgia is also a recognized public concern.</p> <p>Goals of the university in that regard remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empowering Women in Technology ● Free Nationwide Courses in Programming Languages ● Improving Country Statistics ● Employing Women in Technology Industries ● Improving Digital Literacy ● Supporting Women Programmers in the FemTech Sector <p>Some of the challenges still remain with regards to the wrong beliefs that women cannot code, and especially in the regions, girls lack awareness regarding their possibilities as well as support from the environment to pursue their careers - this is something we plan to work on in the upcoming year.</p>
<p>Instruments and proposals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first phase of the Coding School for Women was a 6-month-long training program initiated and fully funded by BTU in collaboration with the United Nations Women. 20 beneficiaries participated in the project held at the premises of Business and Technology University. Participants explored a variety of courses in the tech field: JavaScript, Node js, Express js, WebSocket, jsonp, ajax and other add-ons, HTML & CSS, web interface and application design, react.js, web application testing, server backend programming basics. ● The second phase of the Coding School for Women was implemented in collaboration with US Strategic Center – Strategeast. 13 beneficiaries were trained by the experts of the world’s leading engineering company Epam. The program was fully funded by the US side. Participants explored: frontend development, asp.net development, Java development, android application development and QA engineering. ● Coding School for Women - stage three was initiated by BTU with the support of the US Embassy in Georgia 6 months-long training program is implemented nationwide in a remote format. Within the program, 20 beneficiaries are studying: how to create and manage dynamic websites and programming

languages - HTML & CSS, JavaScript es6, Angular & typescript. For all the beneficiaries, participation in the project is fully funded under the US Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Program.

- Ideation - was held at the Business and Technology University in cooperation with the United Nations Women and Georgian Agency for Innovation and Technology to address gender issues, women's entrepreneurial activity and public awareness.
- Training for the Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs – free training was organized by the Entrepreneurship Center of BTU. The university conducted a webinar about the Covid-19 pandemic with the technical support of the United Nations Women, in partnership with Savvy consulting. Topics that were covered during the training: Developing a Financial Plan, Managing Finance, and Access to Finance.
- Regional Training - Workshops were held in three cities of Georgia, in Telavi, Kutaisi, and Batumi to strengthen the role of women in technology and raise awareness. The beneficiaries participating in the meeting received complete information in the following areas: modern technological trends; software; creating web pages; experience of working in leading programming languages including (HTML; CSS; JavaScript; typescript; Angular; Node js)
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning - a training course for women as a gift. At the initiative of the University of Business and Technology and with the support of the US Embassy, a training program is underway to train women in artificial intelligence and machine learning. For all participating beneficiaries, the training course is fully funded under the US Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Program. The course aims to teach the beneficiary the basics of neural networks and show the areas of its use.
- A rapid economic growth program for Georgian women entrepreneurs - With the participation of BTU, the Silicon Valley Accelerator, US Market Access Center (USMAC), in partnership with the USAID Economic Security Program and the UN Women, a rapid economic growth program for Georgian women entrepreneurs is being launched. The program will help Georgian women startups to develop and grow. The Entrepreneurship Center of the University of Business and Technology (BTU) will fully fund the participation of one startup in the USMAC Silicon Valley's largest accelerator. It also offers the winning team a variety of support, including legal, financial, and technical assistance, to help it succeed in the global market.
- An online platform "Women in Tech" - To strengthen the role of women in technology, the University of Business and Technology is creating an online platform "Women in Tech". The aim of the project is to promote the integration of women in the field of technology.
- The Universal Employment Program - the program is one of the projects that the University of Business and Technology is actively working on. One of the challenges in the digital sphere is the employment of multifunctional and universally qualified employees. The University of Business and Technology will conduct a 4-month training to ensure that women will have the opportunity to receive a high-quality

	<p>education in business and design, and get employed in both local and international companies. The university is partnered with the following companies: Microsoft, Orient Logic, Lab, Wandio, Spectre, HT Solutions, Greennet, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Podcasts about technology and business- On the "Women in Tech" platform, the University of Business and Technology will create and post podcasts in the field of technology and business, which will help raise awareness in this area. ● Communication sessions for girls - In collaboration with Microsoft, Orient Logic, Geolab, and other tech companies, the University of Business and Technology will conduct communication sessions for girls interested in the technology sector.
Constraints and difficulties	<p>Regional coverage still remains a constraint; the fact that most of courses are available online has helped the country to raise awareness and offer remote learning opportunities, however we strongly believe that more regional presence to work individually with girls is highly necessary, and in the upcoming year we plan to partner up with local and international organizations in order to establish local WIT training centers teaching digital skills and entrepreneurship.</p>
Lessons	<p>In Georgia, women's creative talents are not used fully and it is apparent that for economic and social reasons, we need to have more women in Tech contributing their innovative ideas to solving problems our societies face, now and in the future. Furthermore, millions of women of all ages in Georgia are unemployed or underemployed, while jobs in tech offer women possibilities to improve their economic standing while contributing their share to economic development. Women in Tech (WIT) project, aims to encourage more women in technology and generally to promote the value of diversity, inclusion and equity in technology. In the industry, which is highly dominated by men due to discriminative and stereotypical attitudes, the project aspires to empower young talents as well as to inspire conversations on how to make the tech industry a more inclusive place for women to advance their careers.</p>
Links to additional materials	<p>https://btu.edu.ge/en/global-startup-foundation/article/74867-coding-school-for-women https://btu.edu.ge/ka/akhali-ambebi/iniciativa-50/article/84371-femtech</p>