

POLICY BRIEF PRESENTATION

EVIDENCE FOR ADVOCACY: CLOSING THE STEM REPRESENTATION GAP IN ALBANIA

30 November 2022, 17:00, “Musine Kokalari” Library

STEM education is highly important to ensure sustainable and comprehensive social and economic development. As STEM careers are in high demand, and as such the remuneration stemming from employment in STEM is higher compared to other careers. Furthermore, digitalization and innovation provide a growing array of lucrative employment opportunities for STEM employees, creating an income gap between these sectors and the rest, making STEM careers even more lucrative. Considering the importance of both STEM education and careers, considerations on diversity in these fields are of utmost importance. Furthermore, it can be argued that under-representation of women in these sectors contributes to an increasing income gap, leading to overall higher disparities, and slowing the social and economic empowerment of women. Gender stereotyping presents a serious obstacle to the achievement of real gender equality and feeds into gender discrimination (COE). Also, stereotyping is further fed by underrepresentation of women in STEM and considering that the latter is traditionally considered men-dominated, challenges for women in STEM become even harder, requiring both soft and hard measures.

This Policy Brief seeks to provide recommendation to key policy and decision-making actors in undertaking measures that facilitate increase of representation of Albanian women and girls in STEM.

This policy brief is prepared by the Center Science and Innovation for Development (SciDEV) and its flagship initiative the Network of Albanian Women in STEM with the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and AWEN, and pro bono contribution of members of the Network of Albanian Women in STEM.

AGENDA

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- 17:00-17:05** Welcome notes
Blerjana Bino, Executive Director, SCiDEV
Ines Leskaj, Executive Director, AWEN-Albanian Women Empowerment Network (TBD)
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- 17:05-17:20** Evidence for Advocacy: Closing the STEM representation GAP in Albania
Research Team
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- 17:20 – 17:30** Reflections
Dr. Enida Sheme
Head of Computer Engineering Department, Faculty of Information Technology, Polytechnic University of Tirana
Ira Kurti
Software Developer, Lufthansa Industry Solutions
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- 17:30-17:45** Open discussion and feedback
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- 17:45-17:50** Closing notes
Orkidea Xhaferaj, NAWSTEM
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- 17:50** Refreshments
Rossini Bar
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