

“Gender stereotypes are still prevalent in our society. For example, even toys tend to be divided into girls’ and boys’ toys.”

Viktorija Mačiūnė, quality assurance engineer, Lithuania

“Different computer video games tend to increase boys interest in an IT career. It turns out that video games are indeed a common denominator for many adult men in the IT field, in stark contrast to women.”

Carolina Salgueiro, systems consultant at Nexllence, Portugal

“Girls are persistently underrepresented in computer science at all grade levels at school. Therefore, it is necessary to act from early age and add the computer science learning subject to the curriculum of 2nd and 3rd study cycles as well as technology subjects at grades, 10th, 11th and 12th.”

(Vânia Ramos, Professor at University of Lisbon, Portugal)

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“We see fear of using digital technology among primary school teachers. Different measures should be considered to encourage teachers to use ICT in pedagogy.”

Petra Vanič, head of non-formal education and capacity development programme at Kersnikova Institute, Slovenia

“Since many IT positions are rather new, there are very few real-life examples and success stories in the girls’ environment – family, relatives, friends. Many young people tend to see their future in one field or another based on concrete examples. It is therefore very important to widely publicise stories of female excellence in IT.”

Brigita Dane, project manager at Simbioza Genesis, social enterprise, Slovenia

“Each school including computer science teachers should give a chance to the girls to talk about computer science or STEM field. Create conditions to discuss together with girls what they like or dislike about science, engineering, technology, and maths.”

Laura Grinevičiūtė, director of the Rural Internet Access Points Association, Lithuania

“The historical and cultural legacy and stereotypes contribute to this relationship of women being more suited to the social and human sciences than to the exact sciences is transposed to this relationship of women and technology.”

Anícia Trindade, Portugal

“Successful women in IT sector or ICT educators at school need to be a role models girls can relate to, and see themselves being in the future. The more girls get used to hearing about and from women in IT roles, the more normal it will be.”

Danguolė Rutkauskienė, the President of National Distance Education Association, Lithuania

“I’ve been working in the IT community for 8 years now and I witness very positive fact - the number of women working in IT sector has been growing fast in recent years.”

Gintarė Dzindzelėtaitė, Devbridge, Lithuania

“I have always had support from my friends and of course my family. The biggest challenge or obstacle I had was myself. It was when I realised that I could listen to all the advice, but only hear myself and my inner desire to succeed and to do what I really love to do, That I learned to gradually overcome these obstacles.”

Božidarka Radović, Better Meds, Product Lead, Slovenia

“Luck requires hard work and today I consider myself a lucky woman, for doing what I like, and for being valued for my work, but that only comes with a lot of dedication, both at school and professional level.”

Cristiana Pereira, Full Stack Developer Alumni in IPT - Informatics Engineering, Portugal