

## Digital Single Market

# Women in Digital

Team responsible

[DG CONNECT](#) [1]

Empowering women in the tech sector will provide a boost to the economy and allow for full participation in society. Skills and education for the digital world as well as web entrepreneurship are key elements to make it happen.



[2]

Only 30% of the around 7 million people working in the information and communication (ICT) sector are women. They are under-represented at all levels in the ICT sector, especially in decision-making positions. The ICT sector is rapidly growing, creating around 120 000 new jobs every year. Due to differences in demands and skills – and despite soaring unemployment – there may be a lack of 900 000 skilled ICT workers in 2020.

A study on [women active in the ICT sector](#) [3] we published in October 2013, found that allowing more women to enter the digital jobs market can create an annual € 9 billion GDP boost in the EU area. A policy change is needed particularly because of an alarming drop in ICT female graduates (today only 29 out of every 1000 female graduate have a computing or related degree, and only 4 go on to work in ICT-related activities).

One way to reverse this trend is to encourage young people, and in particular women, to take up an STEM/ICT-related careers.

One of the pillars of the [Digital Single Market](#) [4] is the [e-society](#) [5] where people can manage their lives online, with good infrastructure and the right skills. In order to empower women in the tech sector we specifically support them in three domains : [education, entrepreneurship, research & innovation](#). [6]

Every year in April we celebrate [Girls in ICT Day](#) [7]. We also participate in the [EU Prize for Women Innovators](#) [8]. [Watch the video](#) [9] of the 2016 winner.

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[2] [https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Women\\_in\\_ICT\\_brunette.jpg](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/sites/digital-agenda/files/Women_in_ICT_brunette.jpg)

[3] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/bringing-more-women-eu-digital-sector-would-bring-%E2%82%AC9-billion-annual-gdp-boost>

[4] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en>

[5] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/node/77881>

[6] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/blog/women-digital-gap-and-opportunity>

[7] <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/girls-ict-day>

[8] [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=women-innovators](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=women-innovators)

[9] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/2016-eu-prize-women-innovators>

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