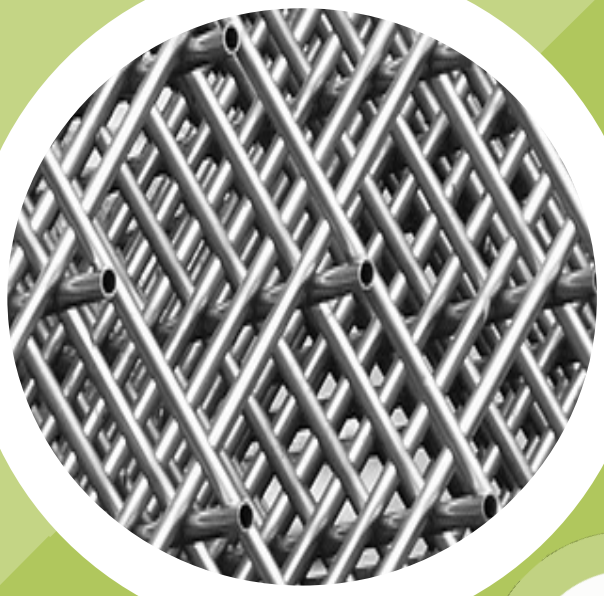
lightme



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Questionnaire / Females in STEM[1] professions

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Entity (Name & type/ industry, Uni, etc.): Innovation in Research and Engineer Solutions (IRES) consultant SME company

Position in the Entity: Project Manager

Photo (if available):

By completing this questionnaire, I agree that these data will be published in the official website of the project (https://www.lightme-oie.eu/en/static/home).

A/ Personal Experience

A-Q1: What did you study to get to your chosen career?

Environmental Engineering

A-Q2: Who has served as an 'influencer' in your path to a STEM focused education and/or career?

School and family

A-Q3: Can you see any roadblocks or challenges which might be influenced by your gender, when applying for a job?

No

A-Q4: What is your favourite thing about your current job and what do you find the most challenging?

My favourite thing about my job is the combination between business and research. Exploring the unknown (research) and transfer it into business is always challenging, especially in the field of the innovative technologies, material science and sustainability. In a field that is always changing and growing I am passionate about learning new things and be part of such a technological evolution.

[1] STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

A-Q5: How have your beliefs, motivations and aspirations changed over time? When did a career in STEM become a priority or choice

My motivations and aspirations remain constant from the very beginning of my career. STEM was a clear choice for me from the bachelor where I combined sustainability with material science up to the MSc and PhD where I dealt in depth with the development of the innovative of nanocomposite ceramic materials.

B/ Women in STEM Impact

B-Q1: Can you recall any times when you questioned your involvement in STEM because of your gender?

No, I was lucky I guest.

B-Q2: What are some of the personal experiences - or compelling arguments - that have influenced your thinking around gender and STEM, and have motivated you to get involved in being an advocate for change?

It is well known that there are lots of burdens for a woman to be in the STEM especially in high level positions. Since today in lots of countries practically there are several issues in equal opportunities between woman and men in the fiend and this is mainly due to older beliefs; the patriarchy and the belief that the woman in responsible to be good wife and mother as a priority in her life. Nowadays women are seen in positions of power, yet the number of men in such positions outnumbers the number of women.

Based on my experience, for a woman to achieve the same level position in STEM (but not only) with a man, the effort requires to proof her capabilities is double.

B-Q3: How might we involve more males in gender inequality discussions?

Beginning from the early age (school, family, etc.). A child has to learn experientially through its everyday life and behaviour the importance of the respect not only concerning gender but also environment, culture, othering, etc. It is required an early childhood education in order to achieve a sustainable society without any kind of racism.

C/ Advice to the younger you and women considering a career in STEM

C - Q1: Which achievement do you look at and think "I'd love to go back in time and tell younger me that this was possible"?

My PhD

C - Q2: What advice would you give to women who are 1) Curious about STEM, 2) Questioning their STEM related studies, 3) Questioning their STEM related career?

1) If you are curious about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math – STEM, which is a teaching philosophy that integrates all four disciplines together into a single, then go for it! 2) For instance, take a biology class in college, and technically you are taking a class that is a part of STEM. It would be a really interesting journey. Many STEM careers require perfect execution in high-stress environments—it makes sense that a STEM education will require the same thing. 3) Have in mind that computing is one of the fastest growing STEM fields, roughly 71% of STEM careers are in computing followed by engineering and physical science. In addition, it is important to remember that careers in STEM fields require a variety of skills, depending on the job, though most require critical thinking and problem-solving capabilities. Finally, STEM offers a chance at higher paying jobs.

So, if STEM looks like a great idea to you, then go for it. It won't be easy, but we can achieve everything we want, and we have imagined for ourselves.

C - Q3: How might we help girls have more confidence in their STEM abilities?

By 'expose' them to knowledge as equal in comparison with the other genders.

1) Extending learning opportunities - It is important to show girls their potential in the technology world

2) Engaging lessons - Having plenty of hands-on and technology-based lessons offers girls opportunities to see how science can relate to their world

3) Pique Their Interest – Put technology and engineering in students' hands to pique their interest

C - Q4: How might we can encourage more industries to consider the long-term implications of gender messaging?

By translating and indicating the benefits that they gain in financial benefit.

Do you have a favorite quote? What is it and who is it from?

"We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." — Oscar Wilde