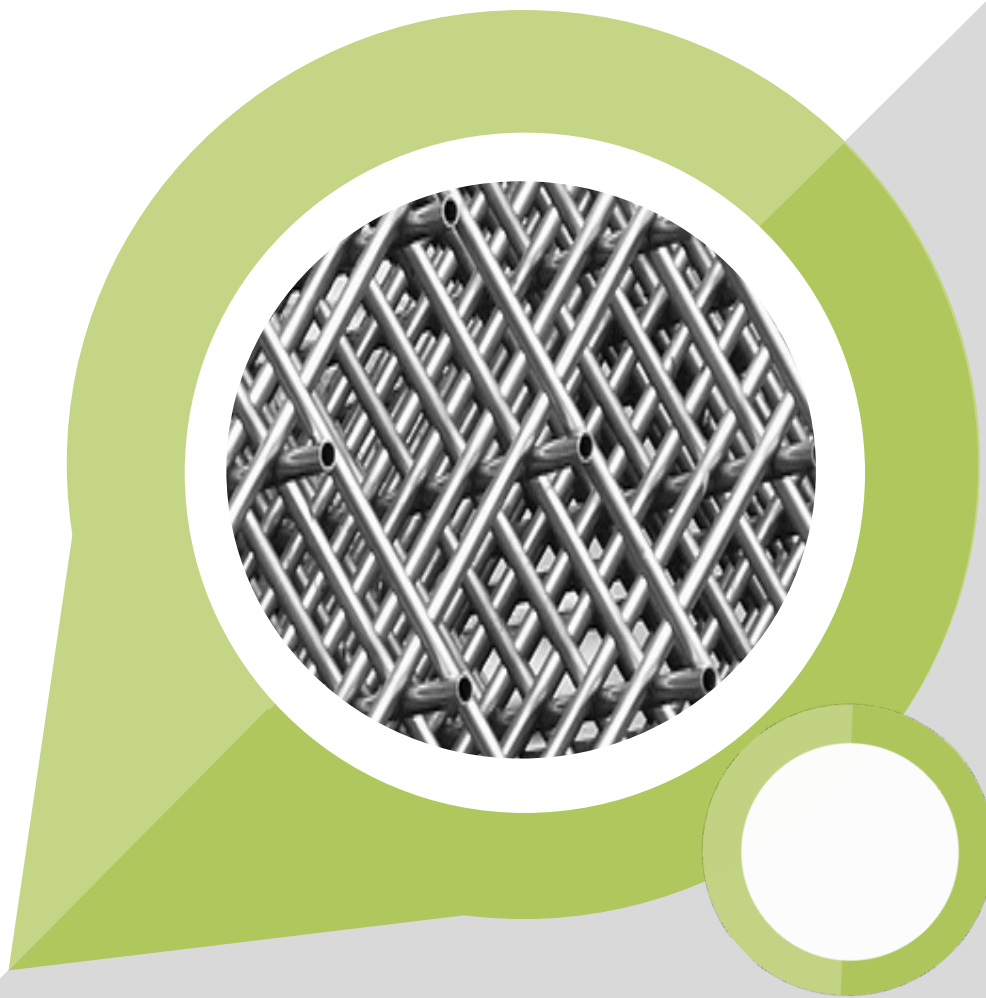


Lightme



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Questionnaire / Females in STEM¹ professions

Name: Ana Cardoso

Profession: Mechanical Engineer

Entity (Name & type/ industry, Uni, etc.): EWF/ international non-profit association

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?

Master's degree in mechanical engineering. Thesis focused on Additive Manufacturing, more specifically in Directed Energy Deposition.

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

My parents always encouraged me to have a good education, in whatever career I would like the most.

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

Yes, women can often be perceived as less capable of understanding mechanical references.

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

Favourite thing: having access to the latest developments of the Additive Manufacturing technology

Most challenging: having time to keep up with all the latest developments of the Additive Manufacturing technology

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

It felt natural to choose mechanical engineering because my favourite subjects were mathematics and physics and because my childhood was marked by the constant presence of motor vehicles (quadbike, jet ski, etc).

B/ Women in STEM Impact

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

Yes, when people ask me what my profession is and what I do for a living, they are very often surprised, making a remark that mechanical engineering is not very common in women.

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?

I try to live by the words "be impartial", and understand that every person, regardless of their gender, race or status, must be treated the same way, that is with respect and with the same opportunities.

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

Show them the benefits of having women in their team, best practices of where women improved the business of a company.

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"?

I'd love to go back and tell my younger self that I'm now presenting the latest advancements in technology in front of huge audiences and teaching people about these.

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) Check practical examples and see the excitement of understanding of how the physical world around us works.
- 2) Test it - try aptitude tests to have a better understanding of the next steps.
- 3) Do not give up! Even if we start with a job that is different than what we were imagining, it can be a pleasant surprise.

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

We should show them practical ways and technologies they can be involved with, as well as having more exhibits and school trips to promote the spirit.

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

To understand that women have certain characteristics different than men which can be an added value, because we might look for things or think in a different but complementary way. It will strength industry to look at a problem with different approaches and by people of different backgrounds.

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