

GP 8: IT Girls initiative

Owner: UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Start date: 2015

End date: on-going

Scope: ✓ training needs policy measures other

Geographical focus: local and regional ✓ national International

The IT Girls initiative started as the winner of the in-house “Under 30 Innovation Challenge” for employees, interns and volunteers working for UN Agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A group of young and enthusiastic volunteers from UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP came up with the idea to help girls and women become more confident in the digital space, acquire digital skills to be productive, creative and successful, and to be able to participate in emerging industries.

Aim:

- Enable girls to access technology and adopt new digital skills
- Raise awareness of the importance of greater participation of women and girls in the ICT sector
- Increase economic opportunities for women in the labor market through partnerships with the public and private sectors

Target group:

Young girls aged 13-18, students and young ICT experts, as well as successful women with experience in this industry.

About the good practice:

The IT Girls initiative contributed to raising awareness about the importance of including girls and women in ICT by reaching out to over 1,200 girls and increasing their confidence, providing 230 girls with practical skills in mobile app development, web development, robotics, logical thinking, problem solving and public speaking; portraying inspiring 56 female role models in cooperation with the private sector, mentoring 20 girls and young women interested in ICT, and implementing the first UN Bosnia and Herzegovina coordinated and very successful “The It Girls Are Coming To Your School” crowdfunding campaign.

The key factors of success:

- Cooperation of different relevant stakeholders (Schools, NGOs, volunteers) improves the development support program and contributes to the awareness and visibility of project
- IT girls quality team organization and members
- A comprehensive set of supporting instruments (technical, financial support and mentoring)

Resources needed:

n.a

Evidence for success:

- ✓ 1200 girls informed
- ✓ 380 girls educated

Potential for learning or transfer

- organizational model / implementation process
- methodology for the assessment of the problem to be address

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www.itgirls.ba<https://een.ec.europa.eu/about/branches/ba/sarajevoom>

