



What is UNICEF doing for girls' empowerment?

UNICEF reaches girls and young women with skills and learning opportunities, empowering them in the transition to adulthood and preparing them for the 21st century workforce. Skills for girls – including in STEM and digital – is one of UNICEF's transformative strategies to achieve gender equality¹ in all areas through promoting girls' leadership, enhancing skills opportunities in and out of school, and supporting innovative platforms that help girls to lead and influence positive change in their contexts.

How is UNICEF promoting Girls' STEM and Digital Skills in Europe and Central Asia?

In Europe and Central Asia, enhancing girls' skills in STEM and digital skills and addressing discriminatory norms is a specific focus with at least 10 countries actively programming in this area, including Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. The programmes aim to address gender barriers and stereotypes, provide relevant and in-demand skills for girls including in STEM, ICT and innovation, and support girls through mentoring, leadership training, safe spaces, internships, and real-life job opportunities across locations. Several countries are currently looking at opportunities to pilot or scale current initiatives.



Three girls are attending a coding training in Suruç Karadut Secondary School, Turkey. Girls must have equal access to quality STEM education.

Examples of UNICEF programmes

Armenia



UNICEF and UNDP Impact Accelerator #5 connects girls to Armenia's IT-Tech ecosystem and provide them with the technical skills to solve problems in their communities.

Bosnia and Herzegovina



IT Girls Initiative links girls with ICT companies through mentoring in schools and Girls Clubs. Girls learn skills like handling Arduino hardware and software programming.

Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan/Kyrgyzstan



The nano-satellite programme equips girls with skills to plan, engineer, and launch lightweight satellites in the stratosphere e.g., for air pollution analysis.

Kosovo (UN SC resolution 1244)



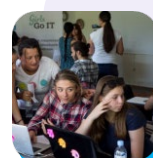
Building Bridges 4 Girls programme equips girls with coding skills and makes internship placement in private sector and ICT entities.

Kyrgyzstan/Tajikistan/Serbia



STEM for girls and entrepreneurship programmes with computer skills, coding, entrepreneurship curricula and mentorship to connect with local job markets.

Moldova



The Girls Go IT programme reaches marginalized girls with education and career opportunities through mobile STEAM classrooms and capacity building workshops.



How can partners work with UNICEF to support girls' skills?

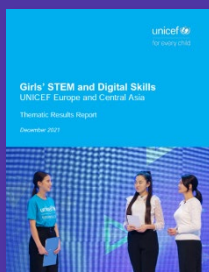
UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia welcomes collaboration with partners interested in accelerating gender equality and promoting girls' leadership and potential everywhere, including in STEM and ICT. UNICEF centers efforts around girls' needs, brings programmatic expertise, influence and capacity for advocacy, and scale and evidence to initiatives. UNICEF looks for partnerships with private and public sector to: collaborate and offer their expertise, resources or technical support to programmes in countries to further reach scale, bolster initiatives, document learning and best practices and contribute to global dialogue and transformative results for girls.



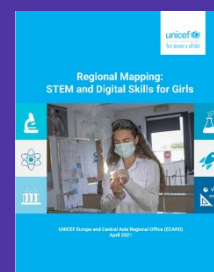
Interested in exploring more about UNICEF's work for girls' skills? Check our resources here:



Impact Brochure: Investing in Girls' STEM and Digital Skills
UNICEF ECARO
August 2021



Girls' STEM and Digital Skills ECAR Thematic Report 2021
UNICEF ECARO
December 2021



Regional Mapping: STEM and Digital Skills for Girls
UNICEF ECARO
April 2021



Ani Sahakyan (right) from the participant team 'Eco-pen' and her members preparing to present their idea on an innovative garbage recycling solution to peers and the jury at the Youth Initiatives Center in Spitak town, Armenia.

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¹UNICEF Gender Action Plan 2022-2025; Regional Gender Strategy 2021-2025