

This panel puts prominent scientist, business leaders and public figures in the spotlight to showcase that the challenges women face could be solved when the full potential of human capital is harnessed. By increasing the number of visible role models in the public sphere, we advocate and promote wider social recognition for women in STEM, thus inspire more women to get into STEM careers and take leadership roles.

While sharing their personal experiences the panellists emphasized that:

- Young females should follow internships and trainings to find what they like to do and develop extra skills.
- Applying for grants as incentives to develop their own “digital” ideas and invest in the digital transformation of the society.
- Take opportunities – it builds the self-esteem of young girls.
- Women outperform men for emotional intelligence which means they have the potential to be better leaders.
- Women are conformists. It may help them to listen and understand people better in order to lead them, but on the other hand they should also be fearless to express their opinions openly.

Western Balkans governments and societies should work harder to level up participation of women in STEM for growth of GDP, gender equality and the improvement of society’s quality through diversity. It is, therefore, more important than ever to encourage young girls and women to get involved in STEM fields. Parents, teachers, mentors, role-models, businesses, governments - everyone needs to play their role.

In conclusion, women should DREAM BIG, embrace all the opportunities presented to them and roll up their sleeves to apply their problem solving skills, critical thinking, communication skills and digital skills in order to become successful leaders because they are more than able to do it.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

