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29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum
“Promoting comprehensive security, stability and sustainable development in the OSCE area through women’s economic empowerment”

Session II: Building women’s human capital

Educational skills and STEMs to overcome the digital gender divide in Italy

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THE GENDER ISSUE IN THE OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

- ❖ **Italian Chairmanship Conference** – 2018: “Digital Transformation – Challenges and Opportunities for Women to Shape Economic Progress” > identification and analysis on inequalities constraining women's meaningful participation in the economy
- ❖ **Ministerial Council Decision** proposed by Italy on human capital development > “education, vocational training and retraining, in particular for women and girls, and especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as a key measure to reduce digital divides and to advance the empowerment of women”

INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN "SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS" (STEM)

- ❖ Impact on the education system, in order to encourage girls to pursue careers with a traditional male majority, is the starting point for a required trend reversal to counter the under-representation of women in strategic and crucial sectors for economic growth
- ❖ DEO+Ministry of Education, University and Research Initiative "IN SUMMER THE STEMS LEARN - Summer Camps of Science, Mathematics, Informatics and Coding"
 - 2016 > 2020
 - € 2 million > € 4 million
 - 6,000 > 18,000 students: 60% girls
 - public and private subjects highly qualified in STEM subjects (Universities, public and private bodies, research centers, museums, cultural foundations and companies)

IMPROVING WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ National Strategy for Digital Skills and Jobs 2020-2025
- ❖ Operational Plan, Dec 2020: 41 operational lines through 111 interventions + a dashboard of more than 60 indicators to monitor the impact on the 4 axes of action of the National Strategy
- ❖ National Coalition for digital skills, under the direction of a Technical Steering Committee composed of public and private actors > “Manifesto per la Repubblica Digitale” = proposal for concrete actions to gain measurable and quantifiable results
 - 34,000 women (12,000 students) have attended training courses on topics such as programming, robotics, electronics, data and artificial intelligence, and communication through social networks
 - DEO-2020: Digital vocational training - € 3 million + Fund for Digital Training partnership with Google Digital Training € 3 million

Challenges in the Covid-19 and post-Covid 19 scenario

- ❖ 2020 “Women for a new Renaissance” Task Force: twelve women, distinguished persons for their original and high-level cultural and scientific contributions in their professional fields
- ❖ Final Report, 2020: proposals for action, e.g. in the area
SCIENCE: ENGINE OF A NEW RENAISSANCE
 - Educating and training in STEM subjects
 - *introduce compulsory humanities subjects in the STEM paths and compulsory scientific subjects in humanities paths*
 - *establishing a single platform to offer STEM activities and internships to girls, encouraging experimental activities, in cooperation with different stakeholders (companies, research centers, schools)*
 - *Promoting the importance of STEM education for girls in view of future jobs, and the central role that knowledge/skills in these areas have in building the future (environmental issues, energy, sustainable development, health)*
- Training new digital skills
- Promoting women’s careers in university and research