

STEM program, SI Club Szeged: Girls in the informatics – “Be a STEM star!”.

Introducing secondary school girls to the STEM. (STEM=Science+Technology+Engineering+ Mathematics).

Goal

One focus of SI is to make STEM more popular among girls and women: this project fitted well into our programme for equal opportunities. In recent years, several new institutions and enterprises invite talented women as labour force but we are underrepresented in the staff of higher educational institutions. We were aiming at modifying the general attitudes and raise interest among women toward STEM areas: we helped establish direct links and communication between secondary and higher education and enterprises.

Methods

We selected high-school girls based on the recommendation of their teachers and mentors. In the first semester we organized visits to scientific workshops of the University of Szeged, to the newly opened laser research centre (ELI) and to the offices of EPAM (an international company combining software with business consulting and technology innovation services): the girls could meet women with impressive careers. These girls could also meet role models from various fields – Hungarian and foreign Soroptimists, highly reputed female researchers and Judit Polgár, the world famous chess champion. In the second semester, we organized special developing courses (Scratch - a free programming language) together with EPAM concluding with a project competition of 8 teams with four members each dealing with sustainable development. Our projects were covered by local and regional media several times.



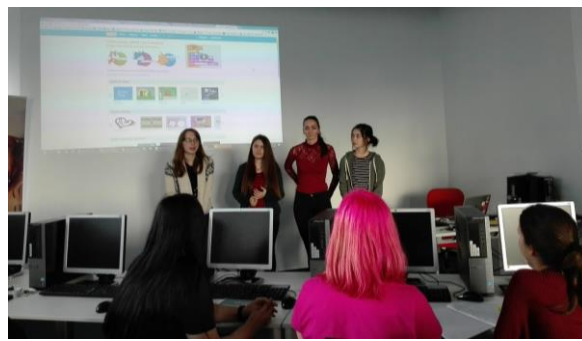
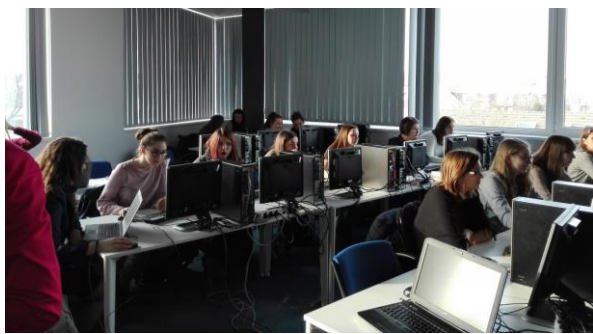
Judit Polgár with Soroptimists



Visit at the Faculty of Engineering



Visit at the local tv-studio



Programming course in the EPAM



Marta Dubs host and pres. Maria Török



Closing ceremony
the audience



the winning team