



# MIND THE GAP

Promoting Girls and Women in STEM

## Mind the GAP celebrates the International Women's Day this March 2016!

The International Women's day is fast approaching all over the world and the European [Mind the GAP](#) project partners are again as motivated as ever to speak with one strong, united voice about the importance of promoting gender diversity in STEM and to interact with teachers and girls in STEM subjects!

On the agenda, [STEM Careers and Girls workshops](#) are taking place in the UK as part International Women's Day, an interactive national event; [TechnologyPact on Tour: Girls](#) will take place in the Netherlands and we have the [latest updates](#) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> partnership meeting hosted by project partners in Spain; Citilab and WiTEC!

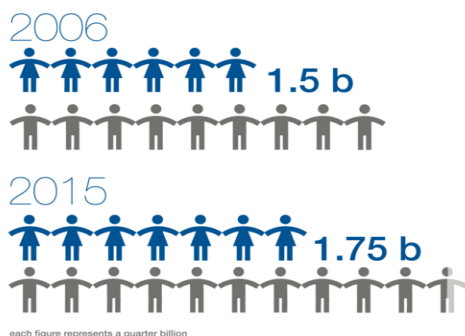
As always you can keep up with all our news on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

### But does gender still matter?

In 2015, there is an extra quarter of a billion women which have entered the labour force compared to 2006. And yet, the annual pay for women only now equals the amount men were earning ten years ago.

*"The imbalance of the gender wage gap has a direct impact on global economics. As talented females struggle to thrive in the workforce, it affects a country's ability to generate sustainable growth and create jobs."*

[Source: *The Global Gender Gap Report 2015*]



## International Women's Day in Sheffield!

[SheFest](#) is Sheffield's inaugural International Women's Day fringe festival. The programme features a wide range of inclusive and celebratory FREE events. Open to all self-defining women (and men) from across the city to come together, learn, discuss, celebrate and have fun!

Last year over 600 people joined us at the Town Hall for a fantastic celebration of International Women's Day, featuring market traders, live music and a spectacular finale fashion show. This year is expected to be bigger!



SheFest takes place 12-5pm on Saturday 12 March 2016 in Sheffield Hallam Student Union!

## Mind the GAP and International Women's Day in the UK!

On the 12th March, Inova Consultancy is hosting a STEM Careers and Girls Workshop, open to young women studying or interested in studying STEM subjects and professionals in the field, to discuss and learn about the stereotypes we all hold and how these can affect our career choices as women.



Inova's team will facilitate the workshop by introducing some of the tools and methodology used during the project's Gender Awareness Training, helping participants to overcome existing stereotypes and achieve their full potential as our future female STEM professionals!

The workshop will be held at Sheffield Hallam University's Cantor Building (room 9231) on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March to coincide with the city's International Women's Day Celebrations. For more information and to book your place, please contact Carolyn Usher at [cusher@inovaconsultcom](mailto:cusher@inovaconsultcom).

## Gwenda's Garage in South Yorkshire!

Gwenda's Garage was the name of the Sheffield garage that was run by Ros, Roz and Annette; 3 female mechanics women who used spanners and elbow grease in a male-dominated trade as the starting point for empowering a generation of South Yorkshire women in the 1980s for five years during a turbulent political and social decade.

Working at Gwenda's, these 3 ladies gained a passion to teach and through teaching and campaigning, they reached thousands of other women.



Find out more from this [article](#) published by WEST, a voluntary organisation based in Sheffield encouraging women and girls to take up careers in non-traditional roles in Science, Engineering, Technology and the Built Environment.

## Partners met in Barcelona!



On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, Citilab and WiTEC warmly welcome and hosted partners for Mind the GAP's 3<sup>rd</sup> partnership meeting in Barcelona in the former Can Suris Factory.

The factory is now home to Citilab, a centre for social and digital innovation which spreads the digital impact on creative thinking, design and innovation emerging from digital culture.

The meeting lasted 1.5 days and successfully resulted in the discussion of important outcomes of the project.

Partners are now pleased to prepare for the final meeting and conference that will take place in the UK in July 2016!



## “Mind the GAP and International Women's Day in the Netherlands”!

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the Netherlands Association of VET Colleges and VHTO; project partners in Netherlands, are organising “[TechnologyPact on Tour: Girls](#)”; an interactive national event to celebrate the International Women's Day during which the main aim will be to understand how to improve and increase the inflow and successful outflow of girls in technological pre-VET and VET-courses.



Visitors of the event will be given information and advice, but will also engage in several brainstorm sessions in which they can provide suggestions and ideas on how to tackle the problem.

Simultaneous to the event, a Girls festival with 90 girls from pre-VET classes will take place where these girls will be doing informative speed dates with female STEM-role models!



During the event, VHTO will spread the word about Mind the Gap and the project Outputs and provide the female participants with an understanding of Mind the GAP methodology and achievements.

Project partners in the Netherlands are pleased to announce that a training for VET teachers will be organised on the 15th and 22nd of March for trainers who are interested in learning more about the issues encountered by female students in the STEM sector and how to support them in their path to becoming successful female STEM professionals! In order to enrol to these open training sessions, please click [here](#).

## Female students in the UK tell us about their experience on the Mind the GAP Career Circles™

In November 2015 the first group of students from The Sheffield College, took part in Mind the GAP Career Circles™. Hear about their experiences in this [short video](#);



## Quotes

*“I’m excited because earlier I didn’t think about the issues between females and males in science. I see now that there’s so much that can stop a woman from getting a career compared to a man. With men you’re expected to do well and get the support, but for females, you have to sacrifice something in a different way from men, and I didn’t realize that earlier. I think it’s very important for other woman to see that I have had success.”*

*May-Britt Moser: Neurologist who was awarded the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine*

## Connect with us:



### Important Abbreviations:

STEM = Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

GAP = Gender Awareness Programme

SET= Science, Engineering, Technology

WiTEC=Women in Science, Engineering and Technology

OERs= Open Educational Resources

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