

# ENGIE

Title of the project: ENGIE (Encouraging Girls to Study Geosciences and Engineering)



Duration of the project: 2020-01-01 to 2022-12-31

Project leader: University of Miskolc, Hungary

Project partners:

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy

European Federation of Geologists, Belgium

La Palma Research Centre, Spain

Luleå University of Technology (LTU), Sweden

University of Zagreb – Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (UNIZG-RGNF), Croatia



Web page: <https://www.engieproject.eu/>

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## **Project description:**

The overall gender pattern in geosciences, especially in the mineral exploration and exploitation sectors is definitely imbalanced, with predominantly men employed in almost all parts of the business clusters, as well as in education and research. Since various studies have confirmed that more diverse teams are more creative and innovative, the participation of women in raw materials related industries is necessary and may be considered as an element of the business strategy.

For these reasons, ENGIE aims to turn the interest of 13-18 years old girls to study geosciences and geo-engineering, thus improving the gender balance in these disciplinary fields. The project will primarily develop an awareness- raising strategy and create a stakeholder collaboration network in order to implement the set of actions in more than 20 EU countries.

## **Project objective and scope:**

ENGIE will address the issue of gender disbalance in the mineral exploration and exploitation sectors by conducting research and gathering comprehensive knowledge on what keeps women away from geosciences and engineering. Within the project, an extensive communication strategy will be developed, and progress will be monitored. Innovative project approach relies on the creation of a co-operation platform for the competent international partners, who are strongly interested in tackling this problematic shortage of female employees (future employers inclusive).

The actions foreseen in ENGIE will have a direct impact on the gender balance in the raw materials sector primarily by changing the way science is communicated in order to increase the participation and interest of girls in geosciences. In addition, the goal of project is to be accomplished by encouraging sustainable collaboration on gender equality in science, involving schools, science museums, research centres and industry representatives. ENGIE will be implemented through the cooperation of 26 different institutions. By their contribution, the project activities will be extended to more than 20 countries and the project results, with a Pan-European coverage, will directly reach about 50 000 geo-professionals. Therefore, with the promotion of the gender balance in the primary raw materials sector, ENGIE will have a long-term positive impact throughout Europe.

## **Project activities:**

Several actions will be implemented in order to achieve the project objectives. A comprehensive survey will be carried out with the participation of successful women within the global geoscientific and engineering community, for a better understanding of their career choices and motivation factors in the past. Benchmarking and fact-finding studies will be performed, considering technologically advanced countries inside and outside of the EU for the identification of best practice tools and methods aimed at raising girls' awareness for STEM and promoting geoscientific and engineering careers. A customised awareness-raising and mobilisation strategy will be developed, based on the outcomes of the survey in more than 20



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European countries. The outcomes from these activities will serve as a baseline for an impact assessment.

Awareness-raising actions will be achieved on the local/national level in the form of a campaign. The main actions comprise Family Science Events; outdoor programmes and after-school Science Clubs on geosciences and engineering; industry mobilisation for organised group visits; a trans-European mentoring programme by graduate and postgraduate university students for secondary school students with the innovative use of social media; promotion of secondary-school science projects with national and international publication/awarding opportunities; courses to science teachers, providing continuing professional development in the areas of geoscience and pedagogy; publication of educational materials, information leaflets and brochures.

The project also aims to draw conclusions from the implementation of the national actions for the development of a long-term EU-level action bringing together industry, education, research centres, SMEs, etc. for continued motivation of girls to embark on geoscientific careers. Recommendations will also be made for developing similar initiatives related to raw materials and geosciences.

