

2020-  
2022

GE-STEAM  
BUSINESS MENTORS  
DATABASE



## Contents

### INTRODUCTION

By shaping female role models in STEAM careers, GE-STEAM project aims to combat gender stereotypes in early education so boys and girls will have the same opportunities and motivation to choose STEAM subjects.

The GE-STEAM Business Mentor database has been designed in order to broaden teachers' and children's perceptions and awareness of STEAM education and later careers.

They will have the possibility to access a database with 6 role model of Business Mentors from each country of the partnership, a total of 30 Business Mentors.

The objectives of this activity are:

- 1) To provide a new and challenging relationship
- 2) To create a closer connection with the STEAM labour market
- 3) To raise awareness of the STEAM companies' representatives of the need to be actively involved in school life

They Business Mentors have been invited to classes in the different local schools to get to know teachers and children/pupils and have talked about their job, their life, success and failure. As neither teachers nor children know details about the real business, Business mentors are the role model to realise what the real work life is like.





## BUSINESS MENTORS FROM POSTAL 3 SPAIN

**Name and Surname:** Celia Casás

**Profession:** Restorer

**Studies:** Degree on arts restoring and preservation

**Hobbies and interest as a child:**

I have been always interested in arts and I liked a lot to listen to stories about art and learn new things about it. Painting was one of my favourite hobbies as well as visiting museums.



**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

Even in arts we need from the other signatures that belongs to STEAM. In her job she needs to prepare different products to clean the works of arts so sciences are a very important signature. Also Technology is essential as they need to be up to date with the latest machines to scan the works of arts, to analyze samples, etc. Engineering and maths are very useful when they need to measure or calculate the weight of some pieces, also when they have to draw the blueprint of some building, etc.

**Name and Surname:** Ángela Pol

**Profession:** political scientists

**Studies:** statistics applied to sociology

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** she's been always interested in arts and music.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**



Maths and technology are essential in the areas of pre-election, election and post-election analysis as well as during the plan of communication campaign, strategies and public policies.

Maths are needed for the quantification of public opinion, since the statistical analysis allows to translate the opinions and attitudes into tendencies which can be tested scientifically. In consequence, it is possible to take decisions based on solid criterion.

Technology is also necessary in Political Sciences and Sociology because it entails to have a tool which accelerates the treatment of data obtained. It is also important to compile information and makes the reporting period easier.





Packages as SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) are used both by the political parties and universities of Social Sciences or even marketing agencies to plan their strategies, combining the social area with mathematics and TICS.

**Name and Surname:** Andrea Rodríguez

**Profession:** Nurse

**Studies:** Degree in nursing

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** dancing, the beach and playing with her dolls.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

She strongly believes in doing some workshops around schools in order to show girls the importance of these subjects and how technology has progressed in our lives.

It does not matter which job do you finally choose, STEAM will be always present and probably more and more in the future as we are getting more digital.

In nursing the development of Science and technology is very important, the more time we spend exploring and researching the better for the patients and the whole society.



**Name and Surname:** Marta Fandiño

**Profession:** Programmer

**Studies:** Advanced vocational education and training in software applications

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** she enjoyed more practical than theory subjects. Maths were her favourite subject and she also liked cars.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

According to Marta kids should learn that there is no difference among men and women and so everyone can choose what they like without taking into account the gender. This conception is obtained when we are older so maybe it should be a good idea also to teach adults how not to transfer this idea to children.

**Name and Surname:** Laura González García

**Profession:** intern at J.P Morgan Chase

**Studies:** double major degree in Law and Business administration / LLM Finance

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** music and animals





**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** it is important to surround yourself with people that inspire you and that motivate you to become a better person and pursue your goals. Role female models of women working on STEAM careers are really important to get the girls motivated.

**Name and Surname:** Beatriz Parada Enríquez

**Profession:** Innovation Technician at ITG (Instituto Tecnológico de Galicia)

**Studies:** Double Degree in Law and Business administration - Master Degree in Finance

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** sports (specially taekwondo) and music

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** Beatriz defends the idea of going on field trips to STEAM companies so children, and specially girls, will have a more specific vision. Also conferences, coaching and mentoring to meet professionals in these areas to motivate girls to study these careers is a very important step to be taken.

## **BUSINESS MENTORS FROM FPS “LEONARDO DA VINCI” BULGARIA**

The children we work with are in Kindergarten, so within 20 minutes we had one meeting/session with each mentor.





Since the children are still very young, we used associations with fairy tales and favorite characters, play situations, as well as their fragile life experiences, to anticipate serious problems such as gender inequality.

A highlight of this session is the overturning of Stereotype I and Stereotype II.

**Name and Surname:** eng. Gergana Kondayan

**Profession:** Chemist

**Studies:** Chemist Engineer

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Simple experiments, loves animals.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** With products known to children, such as starch, apple, baking soda, citric acid, etc., Eng. Kondayan shows children what happens when different substances meet and what are the results of their interaction. The children think that she is a wizard.



**Name and Surname:** Gergana Akalieva

**Profession:** Bank manager

**Studies:** Finances, Banking

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Reading books, including non-fiction and fiction books, she loves Art and psychology

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

Mrs. Akalieva shows the children coins and banknotes and asks them which one is more valuable; with which they can buy more candy, for example. She shows them a bank card and asks them if they know how to withdraw money from the bank, how mom and dad pay; where can you get your money from when you run out of money.







**Name and Surname:** eng. Victoria Dimova

**Profession:** Graphic designer

**Studies:** Engineering design.

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Art, animation, video games.

How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM: Eng.

Dimova draws a kitten or a chicken with a large outline on the board, explaining to the children the sequence in creating a computer image. Then he "transfers" the image to the computer, and depending on the children's interest, colors it, moves it, etc.





**Name and Surname:** eng. Krasimira Kostadinova

**Profession:** Mechanical engineer

**Studies:** machine engineer

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** handcrafting, creating simple jewelry, loves animals.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** Since our mentor worked in a shipyard, Eng. Kostadinova will show the children how to make a boat out of a sheet of paper that can stand confidently on the water. In the course of the work, both girls and boys will be equally supported and encouraged, regardless of their success in this task.







## BUSINESS MENTORS FROM FUNDATIA PROFESSIONAL, ROMANIA

**Name and Surname:** Maria Nits Corbet

**Profession:** Heating and Ventilation Engineer

**Studies:** Polytechnic University, Bucharest

**Hobbies and interests as a child:** Physics, Math and Sport.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

She invited the group of children and the teacher to her office and then they went to a building site where some work was in progress, explaining her role in assuring ventilation for a future Pharmateutics Factory. The girls planned to interview her for the next meeting. They, helped by their teacher prepared the interview and the most important question was what an engineer does. **Maria Nits Corbet who is a Heating, Ventilation, and Air conditioning designer engineer is being interviewed by her little mentees**



They met to devise the questions:

**Identity and background:** your name and surname, where you come from, your education and your current job

**Motivations:** why were you attracted to be an engineer and wanted to set up your own company? Was there a specific event that initiated your motivations? Specific course or professor?

**Work/life balance:** explain briefly your

experience? How do you organise your job activities and your family life?

**Inspiring working practices:** do you observe specific behaviours which limit girls and women's involvement in STEAM careers? What do you imagine to boost girls' interest to become STEAM professional?

**Name and Surname:** Mihaela Ciula

**Studies:** Accountancy and Finance Academy

**Hobbies and interests as a child:** Drawing and Math

**How to motivate girls to get interested in STEAM:** As she is a mother of two gymnasium boys she volunteered herself to be a Business Mentor for the teacher and the five kids who came to her laboratory to find out what an accountant will do in the real world. Demonstrations with tablets have been very well received. More than that they found out about

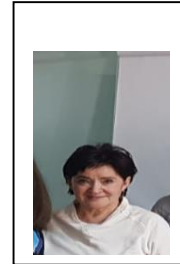




the importance of accountancy as any field of Economy needs it. The picture represents a storyboard for the participants.

**Name and Surname:** Mihaela Caluser

**Profession:** Mihaela Caluser, Head of ICT at a German Company, Schweickert (a woman in a men's company)



**Studies:** IT Engineer

**Hobbies and interests as a child:** English and computers

**How to motivate girls to get interested in STEAM:**

Mihaela Mentor the IT head at the German company who was an excellent professional showed them that ICT is a good and appropriate profession for a woman.

**Name and Surname:** Alina Petica

**Profession:** Marketing Expert

**Studies:** Academy of Economics Studies, Bucharest

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** English, nature and hiking

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

Alina who mentored five girls who were the youngest showed them that her duties as head of Marketing in a large company in our city can very well be matched with her second job namely as a Mountaineering Guide. Children and teachers were taken to one of her climbing to get familiar with professional mountaineering.





**Name and Surname:** Renata Veer

**Profession:** Visual Art Graphic designer

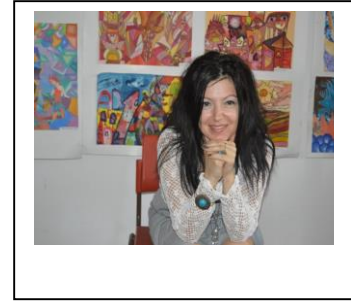
**Studies:** Academy of Fine Arts, Cluj Napoca

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** drawing and music

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

Having the project presented I found it interesting especially the part with the mentoring programme. As a Visual Art graphic designer, I work with digital applications and creativity. I share my knowledge, skills, and attitude with lower secondary school level students in the Art Vocational School. I have been always thinking about what will become of their talent and dedication.

GE-STEAM project came like a solution to my worries. To develop the belief that you can do something with your talent it seemed to me very appealing. If you become an STEAM entrepreneur, you have the opportunity to be creative. For a starter, I thought I could use my own creativity to start a business that I want to build. It is going to be connected with ART which is my passion and I would like to make it work.





## BUSINESS MENTORS FROM FIP IRELAND

**Name and Surname:** Shannen Lane

**Profession:** Midwife

**Studies:** National University Ireland Galway (NUIG)  
Midwifery (Biology & Chemistry)

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Playing Rugby & Athletics. Shannen played international 7s rugby for Ireland.



**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** Shannen spoke very passionately about her love for science

She encourages all the female students to follow their dream and to believe in their ability to succeed in a male dominated sector. She told the students how females are just as capable as their male counterparts. Shannen said her job as a midwife brings her challenges every day and she loves the joy that a new born baby brings to the new parents.

**Name and Surname:** Dr Huda Jaralla

**Profession:** Pediatric Registrar

**Studies:** University of Khartoum, Bachelor of Surgery

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Helping others has always been a passion of Huda's

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**  
Always surround yourself with positive supportive people.  
Never give up on your dream and always believe in your ability. If something is worthwhile doing it is probably difficult, never quit.



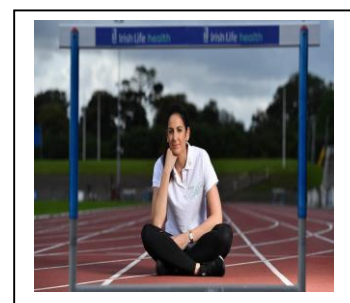
GE-STEAM project is a fantastic initiative supporting young females to enter the world of STEAM and succeed.

**Name and Surname:** Jessie Barr

**Profession:** Sports Psychologist

**Studies:** University of West England

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Athletics, Jessie has represented Ireland at the world athletic championships and at the London Olympics in 2012





**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:** Following your own passion and developing your own pathway is fundamental to success in your chosen field. Winners never quit and quitters never win, it's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up again.

**Name and Surname:** Megan Hanlon

**Profession:** Scientist & Rheumatologist

**Studies:** PhD. Irish Research Council Fellow, Molecular Rheumatology, TBSI, Trinity College Dublin

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Science, Math's and sport



**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

As a young girl I was never afraid to try something new and push the boundaries. My curiosity to learn and explore the science world was with me from a very young age. I knew when I developed my podcast- Unraveling science, that this would create a platform to encourage and motivate young women to enter the STEAM field. I want women to feel empowered and take charge of their learning experience. I am so lucky that I get to work with such creativity and innovation every day, all women should get the opportunity to do that.

**Name and Surname:** Robyn Seery

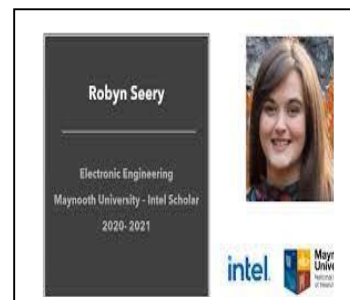
**Profession:** Electronic Engineer

**Studies:** Electronic Engineer Maynooth University

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Robyn enjoyed horse riding and art as a child

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

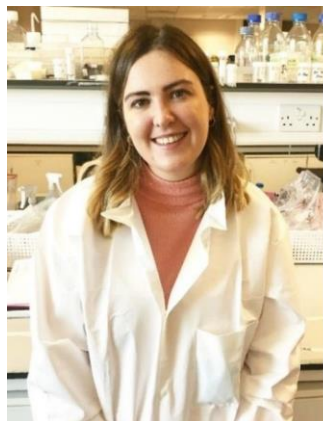
I work for Intel Ireland at present whereby my work as an Electrical Engineer has opened many new doorways for me to work towards new goals, it's a great place to work. I strive to achieve new pathways and innovations for women in science. I really enjoy my job and would encourage any young women out there to not be afraid to get involved in the engineering sector. More young women are needed to take this sector forward into the future and to show the world that women can do extraordinary things.







## Manipulation of Rheumatoid Arthritis Macrophages Primed for Inflammation



“  
It is, at its heart, a storytelling podcast. Talking to researchers from various career stages, from PhD & early career researchers right up to professor level has been invaluable... I think it's so important to have these conversations and to discuss how difficult academia can be, especially for women in STEM.”

Dr Megan Hanlon



Written by **Dr Megan Hanlon,**

*Irish Research Council Research Fellow, Molecular Rheumatology, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College Dublin*

**Name and Surname:** Susan McKenna-Lawlor

**Profession:** Astrophysicist

**Studies:** Professor of experimental physics at Maynooth University

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Star watching & music

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

In my career I have worked hard and enjoyed every minute of it. I am currently the founder and Director of the SME Space Technology Ireland Ltd and was also the Principal Investigator for Ireland's EPONA experiment on the Giotto mission to Halley's Comet in 1986. These achievements gave me the drive to prove to my family and friends that anything is possible and especially for women in science. If you have a love for subjects in the STEAM field, don't let anyone stop your following that dream.





## BUSINESS MENTORS FROM ROMANIA (CCD MUREȘ)

**Name and surname:** BANU Ofelia

**Profession:** farmacist

**Studies:** „Lucian Blaga” University, Sibiu, Faculty of Medicine

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** reading, traveling, sports

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**



The secret of success remains hard work, animated by the dedication with which we aim to achieve certain goals. Despite prejudices regarding the fragility of women, over time women have been able to rise to great achievements. The amazing achievements achieved by women in various fields can compete with those recorded by men.





**Name and surname:** BICHIȘ Ioana

**Profession:** Teacher/School principal/Manager

**Studies:** Postgraduate studies

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** reading, sports, music, arts

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

- through project promotion activities such as workshops, meetings with the girls, free discussions
- by recommending some books, magazines on the topic of gender differences
- by creating a whatsapp group with the girls in which to post a short message, text, poster, image, on the topic of gender differences, daily/bi-weekly.



**Name and surname:** CHELEMEN Cerasela - Teodora

**Profession:** NN Company Insurance Manager

**Studies:** „George Emil Palade” University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology – Târgu Mureș, Profile – Human Resources Management







**Hobbies and interest as a child:** I have always been passionate about everything related to imagination, creativity and manual work.

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

I would encourage them to try new things, absolutely everything that they find interesting, and last but not least, I would tell them to make fear a friend!



**Name and surname:** MADARAS Antónia

**Profession:** Confectioner/pastry cook, Le Patissier Srl - D

**Studies:** Confectioner-pastry cook course OKJ, Post-secondary school for general medical assistant





**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Cooking and baking, preparing various dishes and cakes; medical assistant – emergency care; handicrafts

**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

I would like to encourage young girls to dare to dream big, to choose a profession that they really like, because that's the only way it will work out. They must believe that a woman can also achieve great things, success in her work even if the road to success is very difficult. You should always start the day focused on the goal, give your best, because everything can be achieved with persistent work. There is only one impossible: not trying.

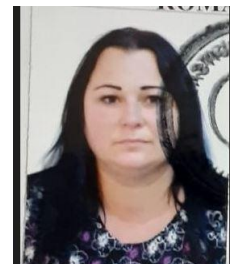


**Name and surname:** TAMÁSI PÁL Katalin

**Profession:** housewife, member of the Association of Plastic Artists Mureş

**Studies:** „Sfântul Gheorghe” High School, Sângeorgiu de Pădure

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** to create... to carry out handicraft activities, to discover the beauties of nature

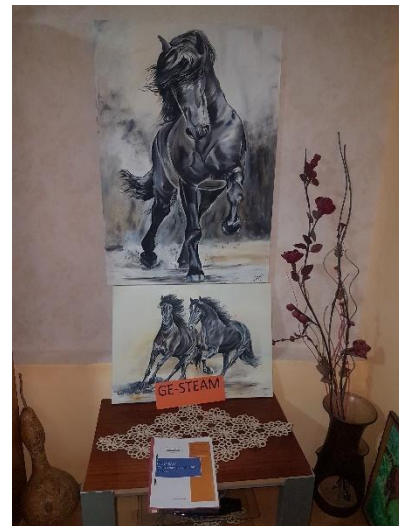






## How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:

If they feel even the smallest and insignificant desire to create beauty, do not back down, on the contrary: try to achieve it with heart and soul... dare to try!!! There is no better feeling than that feeling when your own work, achievement, creation is appreciated and with, through your work you bring joy to others.



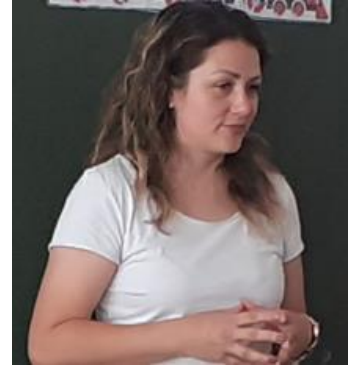


**Name and surname:** OLAR Alisa Maria

**Profession:** Pension manager Casa cu Prispa, SC ALISON PETRALUM SRL

**Studies:** degree in Tourism Geography

**Hobbies and interest as a child:** Nature, exploring the environment, foreign languages, reading, interacting with people from different cultural backgrounds.



**How to motivate girls to get them interested in STEAM:**

The main motivation would be the fact that you end up being appreciated for what you do, you demonstrate as a girl/woman, that you can do whatever you set your mind to on your own, the important thing is to be serious and persistent!

