

SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Interactive Presentations (IP)

Author: Ms. Anushree Soni
International Space University (ISU), Canada

Ms. Bora Aliaj
International Space University (ISU), Albania

STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN THE SPACE COMMUNITY!

Abstract

Women involvement in the space community has been at a lower level compared to the male counterpart. Although many countries have tried through different actions and policies to increase women participation and involvement in hard sciences, there is still much progress to be made in order to reach gender equality in the sector. This project aims to identify methods and platforms to encourage female students to pursue careers in the aerospace industry. This interactive presentation primarily identifies the current hindrances present in the society that prevents women from pursuing career in engineering and space sciences. In order to gain knowledge of the prevalent issues and stereotypes faced by women in different societies, online surveys are conducted in different countries and languages to reach out to as many women as possible. The information gained through these surveys is used as a baseline to develop strategies to target women as well as men in the space community. In order to further establish effective outreach, activities studying the attitude of students towards the aerospace sector were conducted and the results were used to formulate strategies to eliminate barriers that may exist for young women in terms of studying and launching exciting careers in the field of aerospace. The video produced is useful to persuade young women to pursue a career in space and also encourage current women in science that find it difficult to further progress in their field.