

Dear Colleagues,

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Newsletter of “[Women STEM Up](#)” project that aims at tackling a key challenge related to the persistent gender gap in STEM higher education i.e., Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics; and consequently, in the labour market. STEM graduates are in high demand in the labour market and STEM jobs are among the most highly paid.

## Women STEM-up Hackathon

In September 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, it was organised the International Women STEM-up hackathon in Thessaloniki, Greece. The hackathon was focused on innovation, sustainability and inclusion. Participants collaborated across borders to tackle real-world challenges, build creative solutions and pitch their ideas to expert judges.

The agenda included inspiring keynotes, hands-on workshops, and team-based prototyping sessions— all designed to empower young women in STEM to lead change in their communities and beyond.

An exciting keynote talk from [Kave Bulambo \(She/Her\)](#) followed with a vivid discussion. Kave set up the scene of the hackathon and provide ideas and challenges to young women. Kave named as one of the voices of a new era of leaders by the Female Factor in 2024 and finalist in the category of most influential women in the Diversity and Inclusion Space in Germany in 2021, Kave Bulambo is a trailblazing pioneer



on a mission to challenge the status quo around women and underrepresented groups in tech. In 2025, she was also recognized as one of Tagesspiegel’s 40 under 40 in Berliner Wirtschaft, highlighting her influence in shaping the future of business and innovation in Berlin. A [TEDx](#) speaker and moderator, Kave has built an extraordinary career in Talent Acquisition, working with some of Europe's most innovative organizations in the technology industry. This experience, coupled with her life journey, led her to establish enterprises that center around building people up and cementing

inclusion as a core part of business. She is the visionary behind BlackInTechBerlin, the first community of people of African descent in tech in Germany. Next, she launched TalentDiverse, connecting diverse talent to excellent career opportunities with inclusive organizations.

The second day of the Hackathon, we are welcomed our keynote speaker [Stella Kasdagli](#) that is a writer, an inclusion expert and the co-founder of [WHEN Hub](#), a non-profit organisation in Greece working for the economic development of women and for gender equality in the workplace. She is also the co-founder of inc.lude, a specialised agency offering consulting and training services that enable companies of any size and industry to enhance equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of their structure, culture

and public profile. Stella is also a published author, a translator and the facilitator of impactful workshops on professional development, gender issues and social change. She previously studied French Literature in Athens, Greece, and Media Studies in London, and has worked for 10+ years as a women's magazine and online editor. She is a certified ILO Participatory Gender Audit Facilitator, an IVLP alumna and a 2023 Vital Voices Visionaries Fellow, and the recipient of the Social Impact UK Alumni Award. She has published ten books for the empowerment of girls, women and teens, and she lives in Athens with her husband and two daughters.



The three groups of students of Norwegian University of Science and Technology, University of Thessaly, Linköping University, DLI supported by Stimuli for Social presented their projects on sustainable cities that also enhanced the gender dimensions. The selected cities were Shanghai, Nairobi and Barcelona. The jury committee was Archontia Sakellariou and Letizia Jaccheri.

The testimonials of the hackathon can be found at our web page at: <https://women-stem-up.eu/testimonials/>

Final activity at UTH, LiU and NTNU

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As the final activity of the project, an information meeting will be held in October in all participating universities.

[Find out more](#)

For more information about the Women STEM-UP, you can visit the website <https://women-stem-up.eu/> or follow the social media: <https://www.facebook.com/womenstemup/> or here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/88461645/admin/feed/posts/>

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