Innovative Teaching Approaches to attract, engage, and maintain women in STEM: W-STEM project

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Abstract
Significant progress has been made during the last decades to achieve gender equality, but there is still much work to do. In particular, the gender gap is pronounced in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields at all levels of education and labour market. In those areas, the women participation remains low, although there are differences from country to country. In the Latin American context, there is a need for carrying out studies to collect quality data about the actual situation of women in STEM. Although some available data show a high proportion of women in Latin American university education, they are a minority in STEM programs. Moreover, this problem is particularly severe in Latin America because of the biases or cultural norms that influence female behaviour. In this context, the W-STEM project seeks to improve strategies and mechanisms for attracting, accessing, and guiding women in Latin America in STEM higher education programs. This work aims to describe the main results to prepare a set of attraction campaigns in secondary schools in the Latin American countries involved in the project (Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico). In particular, a self-assessment tool about gender equality in higher education institutions in Latin America, an interview protocol for female role models, and a mobile application to show those role models. This work was presented in the Coimbra Group Seminar Innovation in Learning and Teaching in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, held in Granada, Spain on 14 November 2019.

Keywords
STEM, women, gender gap, Latin America, higher education, mobile app, self-assessment, gender equality

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Short CV
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Disclaimer

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