

IT Girls – Great careers for great women

Information Technologies are everywhere: They make our lives richer and more comfortable. They connect people worldwide - anywhere, anytime. They even help save lives! However, not enough people in Europe are choosing careers in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) – especially not enough women.

*A career in the ICT sector has no limits anymore. Your job can range from traditional engineering or programming to designing new types of mobile phones or saving the environment. Information and Communications Technologies are important to every aspect of our lives. The European Commission decided to do something about the lack of women in IT careers. Together with several leading technology companies – the Commission organised a series of "shadowing days" to show young women that technology is not at all "strictly for geeks!" (quote: **European Commission, Information Society**).*

"IT Girls – Great Careers for Great Women" is an important initiative taken by the European Commission to convey the message that rewarding career opportunities in the ever-growing domain of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) exist for both men and women. The action was leaded by **Viviane Reding**, Commissioner for Information Society and Media, EC.

To encourage young girls to choose a career in the ICT sector, the European Commission coordinated the organization of Shadowing Days in ICT companies and institutions.

IMT was part of the small group of innovative companies and research institutions from across Europe, as IMT's activity is devoted to "Development of research activities in the field of micro/nano-technologies, with strong impact on the development and competitiveness of the Romanian Industry" www.imt.ro. With unique research facilities in Romania, IMT is a major player in the area of micro and nanotechnologies for MEMS/MOEMS, RF-MEMS, bioMEMS with applications in industry, automotive, communications, biomedical and environment monitoring.

Delia Dogaru, Adina Corbu, Irina Damascan and Luiza Cicone, from the "Tudor Vianu" National College, shadowed four female engineers throughout the day as they carried out their regular professional commitments. They spent the day seeing the seniors in action in some of the main departments of IMT and visited the main technological facilities, including the clean room:

- Carmen Moldovan – Wafer Processing
- Gabriela Dragan – Mask Fabrication
- Monica Simion – NanoBioLab
- Raluca Gavrilă – Atomic Force Microscopy
- Oana Nedelcu – CAD Design & Simulation



Carmen Moldovan



Gabriela Dragan



Oana Nedelcu



Raluca Gavrilă

Senior scientists who hosted the young girls throughout the Shadowing Day

Within IMT, 40% of the researchers are women proving exceptional qualities for research and development in nanotechnology area. The event was a great experience for the IMT's researcher women and for the young girls spending a full working day inside the microfabrication facility and trying to use the new software programmes or new equipments. The girls were very impressed by the activities within IMT, and declared that research is, from now, a domain to think about when choosing their future careers.

A few impressions of the four young students:

Delia Dogaru

I witnessed the beginning process of microchips used in microsensors to determine the compensation of a certain substance. These tiny things create the bridge between technology and environment.

I do find the R&D work quite appealing and I take this in consideration for a future job.

Adina Corbu

I could observe the deformation the material had when it was tested under extreme temperatures and pressures.

Irina Damascan

I had the most interesting day here at IMT. I started to understand how new technology works in the field of creating masks.

Luiza Cicone

I discovered how we can find out the rugosity of some materials at nanoscale level with a special microscope.





Delia Dogaru, Adina Corbu, Irina Damascan and Luiza Cicone, the young students visiting IMT during the Shadowing Day action

As an innovative, leading edge research institute, IMT is interested in attracting new, young people (students, PhD students) in the micro and nanotechnology field. This is why this event was a nice opportunity for us to meet young girls, interested in a technical career.

The 2007 edition of the IT Girls action was finalized in 2008, through the “**European Commission Shadowing Conference, 6 March 2008, Brussels**”, where IMT participated with a part of the young girls and scientists involved and also received it's participation diploma.



Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Information Society and Media, at the European Commission Shadowing Conference, 6 March 2008, Brussels (source: <http://ec.europa.eu>)



IMT received thanks from the European Commission for participating in the “IT Girls” programme