



Be part of the change!

SAGA (STEM and Gender Advancement)

Improved Measurement of Gender Equality
in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

A Global UNESCO project, with the support of Sida

Through the SAGA project, a selected number of countries from around the world will be offered the opportunity to use an innovative approach for the design of effective gender equality Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies by means of purposefully developed indicators to measure gender equality in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization





Women in STEM - an important challenge

STEM plays a crucial role in meeting the internationally adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Unless addressed in time, women's lack of participation in STEM fields might prevent many nations from reaching these goals. Specifically, reducing inequality by attracting more women into STEM fields will support the achievement of both SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", and SDG 9, target 9.5 on "Enhancing scientific research and upgrading technological capabilities". By working towards these goals and harnessing women's full potential in STEM fields, countries will reach higher levels of development, increase their research output and build capacity, thereby reducing inequalities and knowledge gaps.

To develop effective evidence-based STI policies, policy-makers must have access to reliable statistics and indicators. However, the lack of relevant data, standard methodology and guidelines to assess women's contributions to STEM obstruct the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies aimed at promoting gender equality. There is clear evidence for the need of coherent and policy-relevant indicators as well as instruments to design policies directed at increasing the visibility, participation and respect for women in STEM.

These are challenges the SAGA project seeks to overcome!

A brighter future for women in STEM

What is the aim of SAGA?

SAGA aims at providing assistance in countries through good practices for enhancing women's participation in STEM. The project will address existing and potentially emerging issues arising during evidence-based policy-making due to the lack of adequate information.

The SAGA approach

The SAGA approach consists of relating indicators and policies to gender objectives, identifying gaps in the policy-mix. To do so, SAGA has developed a methodology for defining and measuring STEM at the educational level and in the workforce. It also provides practical tools to integrate gender aspects in STI policies and operational instruments as well as to collect statistics on STEM education, in the workforce and on drivers and barriers to participation and career progression.

SAGA will provide knowledge on how to achieve gender equality in STEM, including the critical steps necessary to design better STI policies focused on gender equality from different angles. The SAGA approach is implemented through the SAGA STI Gender Objectives List (STI GOL) and SAGA Toolkit. The STI GOL is an innovative way of gathering and classifying gender-related STI policies and operational instruments, thus aiding in the identification of gender gaps in existing policies. The Toolkit establishes new standards for evidence-based policy-making, including impact assessment and policy design. The methodological approach also offers a series of experimental indicators on drivers and barriers for women in STEM to be assessed by the participating countries on their practicality and efficiency.

In selected SAGA Pilot Countries, which give special priority to promoting gender equality in STEM, SAGA will offer National SAGA Teams capacity-building, methodological support and follow-up to adapt, implement and analyse pilot surveys and data collections on the tools offered by the SAGA Toolkit. The STI statistics, indicators and policy instruments collected will be featured in the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the UNESCO Global Observatory on STI Policy Instruments GO-SPIN databases. The analysis of the indicators and policies will be published by SAGA as a book at the end of the project.



Become a SAGA Pilot Country

+ Meet experts

By participating in SAGA, your country will be able to take advantage of hosting and organising events and meetings with international experts on STI and gender, an ideal opportunity to raise awareness and address gender equality in STEM.

+ STI indicators

As a result of the SAGA capacity building activities, your country will benefit from enhanced tools for measuring the status of women and girls in science. The indicators produced will be incorporated into the UNESCO Institute for Statistics STI database.

+ STI gender policy

SAGA Pilot Countries will have the opportunity to identify gaps in the current policy frameworks and gain the skills to improve STI gender equality policies. The outcomes will be featured in the UNESCO GO-SPIN database.

SAGA Pilot Countries' contributions

- SAGA Pilot Countries will establish a National SAGA Team to carry out the activities and liaise with the project's Steering Committee. The National SAGA Team will include government officials, official statisticians, science administrators, NGO officials, researchers and experts, as well as UNESCO and other United Nations partner representatives.
- In cooperation with the SAGA Steering Committee, the National SAGA Team will:
 - host capacity-building workshops,
 - implement selected methodologies from the SAGA Toolkit,
 - carry out surveys and collect data from diverse sources,
 - produce indicators and databases of STI gender equality policies, and
 - produce relevant analytical reports.
- SAGA Pilot Countries will support and cover the expenses of the National SAGA Team, as well as potentially contribute with partial funding to capacity-building activities, surveys and publications.

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