

**EMT, Iberdrola and Comillas Pontifical University promote this initiative**

## **Her Majesty the Queen receives the working group of the Woman STEM Sustainability Mobility Chair**

- **The mission of the newly created Comillas ICAI Chair is the promotion of STEM vocations in girls, particularly in the field of Vocational Training for sustainable mobility**
- **While more than half of university students are women, less than 26% study STEM degrees, and only 1.4% in Vocational Training.**
- **It is an innovative public-private initiative to create a strategic and pioneering alliance**

**Madrid (October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020).** Her Majesty the Queen of Spain has received today in audience the working group of the founder entities of the new Chair “Woman STEM Sustainability Mobility”. Iberdrola, through its [Foundation in Spain](#), together with the Municipal Transport Company of Madrid and the [Comillas Pontifical University](#), have launched a chair for the promotion of women in STEM vocations (an acronym in English for science, technology, engineering and mathematics), particularly in the field of vocational training for sustainable mobility, providing it with the necessary means for its development

The attendants to the audience have been Alfonso Sánchez Vicente, managing director of the EMT; Ramón Castresana Sánchez, director of the Iberdrola Group Foundations Committee and director of the Iberdrola Spain Foundation; Julieta de Micheo Carrillo de Albornoz, director of Institutional Relations and CSR at EMT; María Rein de Mesa, Training and Communication Technician at Iberdrola; Yolanda González Arechavala, professor at the Higher Technical School of Engineering (ETSI-ICAI); and Elsa Santaolalla, research professor at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences (CIHS).

Among the main objectives of the Women STEM Chair are the investigation of the causes of the low participation of women in studies related to STEM areas, the degree of adequacy of the academic contents with the needs to fill positions both at EMT and Iberdrola, the promotion of the cultural and social change necessary to promote the incorporation of women and the preparation of a study of employability, quality and success profiles in STEM degrees. Not surprisingly, the figures show that while more than half of college students are women, less than 26% choose STEM-related degrees. Furthermore, about 14% of young people choose to study

Basic or Medium Vocational Training, of which less than 33% are women and those who choose STEM do not reach 1.4%.

Over the next two years, among other actions already defined, situation analysis reports will be prepared in Spain and other countries with successful initiatives, vocational guidance sessions will be held towards STEM among young and adolescent girls, interdisciplinary workshops will be developed to promote development of these skills and will collaborate in the development of projects that generate research and innovation in the field of education with the aim of promoting STEM skills.

The Chair is characterized by interdisciplinarity (expert engineers from Comillas ICAI and experts in education and Social Sciences from the university join forces) and by being part of a university with a marked commitment to STEM disciplines. In addition, Comillas' commitment to companies that increasingly need women in technical positions is accentuated. The university-company collaboration in many Chairs and initiatives makes Comillas the first university in employability in Spain, the second in Europe and the seventh in the world, according to the prestigious QS World University Ranking 2021.

In this pioneering public-private initiative, Iberdrola and EMT want to share the needs of both companies regarding the incorporation of women in two essential strategic areas: mobility and sustainability. To collaborate in the activities of the chair, Iberdrola and EMT will finance the amount thereof, while the Comillas Pontifical University will provide its centers to carry out all educational activities.

Finally, regarding gender, urban mobility and transport innovation, EMT would like to express its commitment and conviction in the importance of teamworking and the exchange of experiences; and consequently, EMT participates within the main National and International Mobility associations with two key objectives:

- Achieve a safer and more attractive transport for women as users
- Improve women's access to all public transport professions, including technical and managerial roles

In this regard, at European and International level EMT would like to highlight its participation at:

- POLIS: leading network of European cities and regions working together to develop innovative technologies and policies for local transport, fostering the exchange of knowledge and experiences among local and regional authorities. Gender topics are discussed at the Governance and Integration working group, in which EMT is actively involved.
- UITP: the international association for public transport, which aim is to defend sustainable urban mobility. It is the only global network that brings together all public transport players and all sustainable transport modes. EMT participates in the working group on “diversity and inclusion”