Analysis of gender inequality in STEM in Spanish higher education.

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FACTS
Sex discrimination does not originate in the educational system but on a social-historical construction of gender
HE is an integral part of society that is not an isolated entity
✓ reflects what happen in our own society
✓ gather the strengths and weaknesses which coexist in the society
✓ reflects a perspective opposite to the one which recognizes HE as an institution based on neutrality and objectivity, according to which, people (mainly professors) who develop their job, are impervious to everything that occurs out of its own fences.

Gender discrimination factor hardly conditioning lives of individuals in terms of identification as a woman or man over the basis of stereotypes filled with discrimination against females.

Spanish HE continue to exist careers considered as “male” or “female”, been women still poorly represented in STEM

OBJECTIVES
Disclose facts and figures of the gender gap in the STEM degrees
Determine the discourses behind the motivations to enrol or not in IT studies

DEVELOPMENT
20 interviews to girls which decide to enrol or not in IT studies

KEY FACTS
Communication possibilities offer by IT
Interest for “hard” scientific subjects (maths and physics)
Perceived potential of IT as driving force of the future
Social setting discourage of IT for being perceived as difficult

Unfamiliarity with careers/professional opportunities
IT job perceived as time consuming (continue change)
Lack of interest for the job
Maths
Lack of perception of IT social aspects
Manual side of IT (manipulation of devices and cables)
Interest for other BA (not even consider IT as an option)

CONCLUSIONS
Stereotypes around the image of IT are still present (difficult, lack of social aspects and manual (fix computers)
Not significant drop outs of girls who enroll in STEM studies
Importance of the enrolment of women in STEM programs should be tied to individual interests of girls and women (ensure access of women to STEM programs of higher education)
Society as an arena for both men and women need of a balanced and proportional representation in STEM field and its educational programs