



# IDEAS TO COMMUNICATE

when professionals in STEM fields talk with students



## STEM IS USEFUL FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Knowing more about STEM can help you be happier: to enjoy more, to be healthier, to take better care of the planet, to consume better, and to have more job opportunities, amongst other benefits

*“What I have learnt about science, engineering and mathematics helps me form opinions and take decisions in my daily-life in order to take care of the planet, myself and others...”*



## STEM NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU



We need diverse people in science, engineering, and mathematics who bring different approaches. Perhaps you feel different from people who usually feel comfortable in the STEM field. If this is the case, you are the kind of people that we need.



*“We need people who think in different ways. We need people who don't usually participate in science, engineering, and mathematics to talk about it, think about it, and participate in it.”*



## FUTURE STEM IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU

You are good enough to pursue science, engineering, and mathematics. These are fields with very different professional profiles in which you can participate either professionally or unprofessionally. You can take part by giving informed opinions, taking part in activism, getting involved in civic science initiatives, working on organizational communication, teaching, and even financing, apart from being a STEM professional.



*“Anyone can participate in the STEM disciplines if they wish to, and diverse people getting involved in civic science projects or taking part in an NGO are needed”*



**We want to overcome the "culture of excellence" and actively promote the "culture of participation" with a STEM gender and equity perspective.**

# 4

# QUESTIONS

to prepare your presentation as a STEM professional to students from an equity perspective

## 1 WHO WILL YOU SAY YOU ARE?



What can I say about my life: where I was born, where I have lived?



You may ask yourself...

What can I say about **myself and my experience as a student their age?**



How can I explain my work as a scientist, engineer, or mathematician?



### REMEMBER...

Presenting oneself as a close person (from a similar neighbourhood or highschool, finding things in common) and talking about failures (things that didn't go well) is very important to normalise STEM.

## HOW WILL YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

## 2

### REMEMBER...



When talking about the people you know, **don't just use examples of famous scientists, engineers, and mathematicians who work in laboratories.** The pharmacists, the weather presenter on TV, the professional who installed the gas installation at the school, or the person who fixes your computer are also STEM professionals, and they are closer to most of the students!

What characteristics of mine are important as a person, **beyond being a scientist, engineer, or mathematician??**



You may ask yourself...

What characteristics do I have as a person that bring me **closer or further away to the STEM person stereotype?**



## 3 WHAT WILL YOU SAY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN?



What questions do I ask myself at work?



What questions would I like to ask myself or resolve in the future?

You may ask yourself



With whom do I have relationships within (colleagues...) and outside of work (family, friends...)?



What things do not interest me or do I find tedious?



What things interest me and do I do outside of work?

### REMEMBER...



It is important that you share with the students your interest in other things apart from STEM. For example, talking about **those things you enjoy doing in your free time:** what sport do you practice, what you usually do on weekends, who you have relationships with (family, friends, etc.)...

## BE AWARE OF WHAT NOT TO DO OR SAY

## 4

### REMEMBER...



It is necessary to share with the students that science, technology, and mathematics are not only for boys, or for exceptionally brilliant people who are only interested in science and with no life of their own. You need to emphasize that there is a wide variety of professionals (from all nationalities, sexual orientations, different backgrounds...) and even further diversity is needed!

Which stereotypes would I like to avoid?



You may ask yourself...

Which messages would I not like to convey?

