



## ABOUT STEM IS FEM

STEM IS FEM is an educational project aimed at popularizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) specialties among girls and young women. STEM is FEM works with schoolgirls aged 12-23 who are interested in tech.

The project brings together like-minded people and forms a community where girls support each other, share ideas, and learn together. The community now has more than 350 teenage girls from all over Ukraine.

### Key project objectives:

- **to encourage** as many girls as possible to choose a technological career
- **to persuade** girls in their ability to reach the highest career heights and **fight** gender stereotypes in the society
- **to form** a professional community and to make each STEM girl feel the support and assistance of those who understand her and follow the same career way
- **to promote** technical specialties, science, scientific thinking, and gender equality.

## AFTER FEBRUARY 24, WHEN RUSSIA INVADED UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began and the project's focus has changed. The project does not freeze its activities but re-formats and re-organizes the ones.

According to UNICEF, in one month of the war, **more than 4.5 million Ukrainian children left their homes**, 60% of the child population of Ukraine. Among them are also participants of the STEM is FEM project. Many children were forced to leave on their own, without parents or family members.

STEM is FEM has already got numerous requests from the girls forced to leave Ukraine and their families - they are scared, lost, and at-risk because of active human trafficking on the borders, confused about their future, and do not know what to do.



## PROPOSED PROJECT SHORT SUMMARY

After the victory, Ukraine will need a long time to clear urban and suburban areas making them habitable, restoring critical infrastructure and housing so that children could return here. Moreover, Ukraine will need a **restored economy and its young generations to help**. In this regard, children who stay at home or go abroad should not lose valuable time and opportunities and continue their education.

STEM is FEM has already got numerous requests from its community of schoolgirls about where to look for housing, where to find a community of people to get help, how to proceed with their studies, etc. But most often, girls ask - **what they can do to help Ukraine**. STEM is FEM answers: **the best thing to do for Ukraine and its future is to stay safe and continue studies**.

The project aims to help as many Ukrainian teenage girls abroad as possible to meet their immediate needs for security, a safe community, and education to which every child is entitled according to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- To assure their **safety** we plan to launch **an informational campaign** about human trafficking danger.
- To provide **financial stability** -the project will provide **a scholarship program** for girls interested in STEM.
- To give them new **educational opportunities** and a feeling of connection with their Homeland STEM is Fem will introduce an **educational module on urbanism**.
- To maintain **psychological health** and **socialization** in a new environment – STEM is FEM will organize the **students support groups**.



## A. Information campaign

According to The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons **women and girls account for 71% of all trafficked victims detected globally**. That is why STEM is FEM emphasizes that the most urgent need of the Ukrainian girls right now is **safety**. As the target audience of the project is **girls aged 12-23**, this is the age of people most vulnerable in the face of situations of human trafficking and kidnapping.

The project plans to conduct an **information campaign to raise awareness of the trafficking risks and show girls the basic rules of behaviour in unfamiliar places, when crossing the border or being abroad, etc.** This will involve:

- social media marketing
- media campaigns
- opinion leaders' engagement
- work with the borders' authorities and collaboration with women's organizations working abroad.

**Budget: \$20,000** (includes: 50,000 information booklets; videos from opinion leaders; advertising on social networks; etc.)

## B. Scholarships

As girls now face significant financial and accommodation problems abroad, they will not be able to pay for their livelihoods by themselves. Consequently, they will not be able to concentrate on education. Therefore, **STEM is FEM plans to provide monthly scholarships for 100 project participants at €500 per person per month.**

The scholarship period will be issued for girls to cover their accommodation. The only condition set by STEM is FEM for girls who want to receive this scholarship is to return to Ukraine when the peace is settled or when they complete their studies.

The project also plans to give girls all possible assistance in the process of applying to universities and colleges abroad.

**Budget: \$560,000** (includes: €500 scholarships for 100 participants for 10 months; etc.)



### C. Educational online module on Urbanism

Preparations for the development of Ukrainian cities and villages destroyed by the war must occur even as the war is still going on.

Cities should no longer be built on the prototype of closed and inconvenient tenets left by the Soviet Union. Diverse and inclusive youth communities will be able to bring old living areas closer to European standards of comfort, ergonomics, inclusiveness, and community service.

With the help of creative content, top-notch motivational and industry-related speakers, and a vital goal, STEM is FEM will engage **50 Ukrainian girls aged 15-22 from all over the state and those who fled the country in the online educational module on Urbanism.**

This educational opportunity will give girls theoretical and practical knowledge of the planning and development of urban areas. The project will hold **eight meetings for 50 participating girls during the four months of study.** These meetings will take place for one day on weekends twice a month, online, and last for 3-6 hours.

In addition, the project will provide **one online lecture per month for four months** for wider coverage. These lectures will last 1-2 hours and will be posted on the project's pages on social networks and on its website. Monthly coverage of 3,000 people is expected, overall coverage is anticipated to reach 12,000 people.

Educational and industry speakers and teachers from Ukraine and abroad will provide video lessons for the girls and teach them practical skills. From the beginning of training, for four months of meetings, and an additional one month after the end of online classes, the girls will develop their own urban planning projects. After the deadline, the jury, composed of project speakers, will assess the proposed initiatives. **They will select the best 10 out of 50 projects, and STEM is FEM will collect them in the portfolio.**

These 10 projects will be submitted for verification and quality refinement to specialists in urban planning and architecture. They will help the girls make the projects realistic and suitable for implementation.

Afterward, STEM is FEM will communicate with local communities in Ukraine, local governments, businesses, international foundations, or organizations that **will invest in the development of Ukraine.**



**Budget: \$40,000** (includes: 8 learning days 3-6 hours of lessons per day for 50 participants; 4 open lectures; portfolio of 10 inclusive projects ready to implement; etc.)

#### D. Communication with peers

While abroad or still in Ukraine, girls are detached from the usual circle of communication. Therefore, it is essential to involve them in communities of peers and like-minded people, to integrate themselves into everyday life, and find help and support on the ground. **STEM is FEM will help the girls find student and school support groups that will gladly accept refugee girls from Ukraine and help them solve their problems.**

For those who stayed in the country, those meetings will be organized online. For those being abroad – offline. The main goal of these meetings will be psychological support, the fight against loneliness, and reducing the risk of suicidal manifestations, as this is possible due to stress in adolescents. The opportunity to talk to new friends will give girls a sense of unity with the world, and foreign students - a better idea of what is happening in Ukraine now.

**Budget: \$8,000** (includes: moderator payment for 20 events, advertisement in social medias, etc.)