

Call for Volunteer Evaluators in the Framework of the Girls Go STEM Student Challenge 2026

About Girls Go STEM

[Girls Go STEM](#) is an education initiative led by the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#), coordinated by [EIT RawMaterials](#), and supported by the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture of the European Commission. Its goal is to inspire and empower girls aged 14-19 across Europe to explore careers and opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), with a particular focus on innovation, sustainability and emerging technologies. Through challenge-based learning, hands-on activities and international collaboration, the initiative encourages young women to develop creative problem-solving skills and confidence in STEM-related fields.

As part of the initiative, the Girls Go STEM Student Challenge invites teams of schoolgirls to design innovative solutions to real-world challenges every year. The 2026 edition of the challenge is connected to sustainability in the aerospace sector.

About the Student Challenge

The [Girls Go STEM Student Challenge 2026](#) brings together teams of 14-19-year-old girls from across Europe to develop creative and forward-looking ideas addressing the challenge of space debris.

Girls choose one space component and redesign it so that, if it fails, it produces as little harmful debris as possible. Instead of trying to prevent failure entirely, they are encouraged to focus on what happens when something goes wrong.

Participating teams submit:

- a **1-minute video presentation** (in English);
- a **set of presentation slides** (in English) explaining their concept, the design and the proposed solution.

Selected teams at the national level will be invited to the Girls Go STEM's flagship event, the Women and Girls in STEM Forum, in autumn 2026, with all costs covered by the initiative for up to 4 girls and 1 teacher. The top three teams will have the chance to pitch their ideas on stage in front of a jury of experts and win the final prize.

Therefore, the competition has three stages:

- **National level:** Volunteer evaluators from the space field selected via this call review all applications. As a result, one national winner per country is selected.
- **European level:** Girls Go STEM staff rank all national winners to define the top 3 teams and to select up to 24 teams to attend the in-person event.
- **On-site event:** The top 3 teams pitch live to a jury of experts, who select the 1st place winner.

To support the evaluation process, Girls Go STEM is launching this call for volunteer evaluators.

Role of Evaluators and Process

Volunteer evaluators will:

- review assigned student challenge submissions independently;
- assess applications using a simple evaluation scorecard provided by Girls Go STEM;
- score each application according to the 4 official evaluation criteria (see next section 'Evaluation Criteria');
- provide fair, objective and confidential assessments.

Girls Go STEM will provide:

- access to the evaluation materials;
- evaluation guidelines;
- official scorecard file;
- support throughout the evaluation process.

Each evaluator will review approximately **10 student applications** as part of an evaluation jury composed of three evaluators. The overall commitment is estimated at **2-3 hours maximum** in total.

Evaluators can score applications individually without the need to align with the other two evaluators assigned to the same application. Girls Go STEM staff will coordinate the process and will make a final decision in case of an ex-aequo or unresolved tie.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Creativity and Originality

How new, imaginative and innovative is the idea?

2. Design Quality

How well thought-out is the proposed solution?

Is the concept coherent, realistic and clearly developed from idea to solution?

3. Reasoning and Justification

How well do students explain and justify their choices?

Have they considered assumptions, trade-offs or limitations?

4. Clarity of Communication

How clearly and convincingly is the idea presented in the video and slides?

Is the presentation easy to follow and well-structured?

Who We Are Looking For

We welcome applications from:

- professionals
- researchers
- university professors and lecturers
- innovation experts

with **experience or expertise in the aerospace field.**

Applicants should:

- have sufficient English proficiency to review submissions;
- be available during the evaluation period (31 July – 24 August 2026);
- commit to impartiality and confidentiality.

Please note that participation as an evaluator is on a voluntary basis and is not financially remunerated. The contribution of evaluators is highly valued and recognised through a certificate of participation and acknowledgement within the Girls Go STEM initiative.

Why Become a Volunteer Evaluator?

By joining the Girls Go STEM Student Challenge as a volunteer evaluator, you will contribute to empowering the next generation of girls and young women in STEM and aerospace-related fields.

Your participation will help:

- support innovative and creative student ideas;
- encourage girls to pursue STEM studies and careers;
- contribute to reducing the gender gap in STEM sectors;
- connect education, research and industry around future-oriented challenges;
- inspire young people through expert feedback and engagement.

Volunteer evaluators will also have the opportunity to:

- get involved in the Women and Girls in STEM Forum – Aerospace Edition 2026 (dates TBC in autumn) as speaker, mentor or workshop facilitator.
- receive a certificate of participation and recognition for their contribution to the Student Challenge evaluation process.

Timeline

Deadline to express interest in becoming a volunteer evaluator	19 July 2026
Confirmation of selected evaluators	By 29 July 2026
Distribution of applications and scorecards	By 31 July 2026
Evaluation period	31 July – 24 August 2026

How to Express Your Interest

To express your interest in becoming a volunteer evaluator, please complete the form available [here](#).

As part of the application, candidates are required to submit:

- a short professional profile or CV (LinkedIn also accepted)
- a short paragraph about their motivation

Selected evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and a confidentiality agreement provided by Girls Go STEM, before proceeding with the evaluation of the student challenge submissions.

Data Protection

EIT RawMaterials, as coordinator of the Girls Go STEM initiative, will process personal data solely for the purpose of managing the evaluator selection and evaluation process, in accordance with applicable data protection legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Personal data will only be accessed by EIT RawMaterials authorised staff involved in the organisation of the Student Challenge and will not be shared with third parties outside the scope of the initiative.

By selecting the corresponding box in the application form, applicants can agree to receive the Girls Go STEM Community newsletter and/or to be contacted by EIT RawMaterials for further opportunities linked to the EIT Girls Go STEM flagship event, Women and Girls in STEM Forum 2026 (e.g. speaking slots, workshop facilitation, mentors, final jury members or similar roles).

Applicants may contact EIT RawMaterials at any time regarding questions related to the processing of their personal data.

Any Questions?

Please don't hesitate to contact the Girls Go STEM team at girlsgostem@eitrawmaterials.eu for any clarifications you may need.