

Why aren't girls choosing Computer Science across Ireland?

As part of Google's commitment to closing equity gaps in Computer Science across Europe, we conducted research - in partnership with cultural insights agency Canvas8 - to find out what prevents girls across the educational pipeline from choosing Computer Science in Europe.

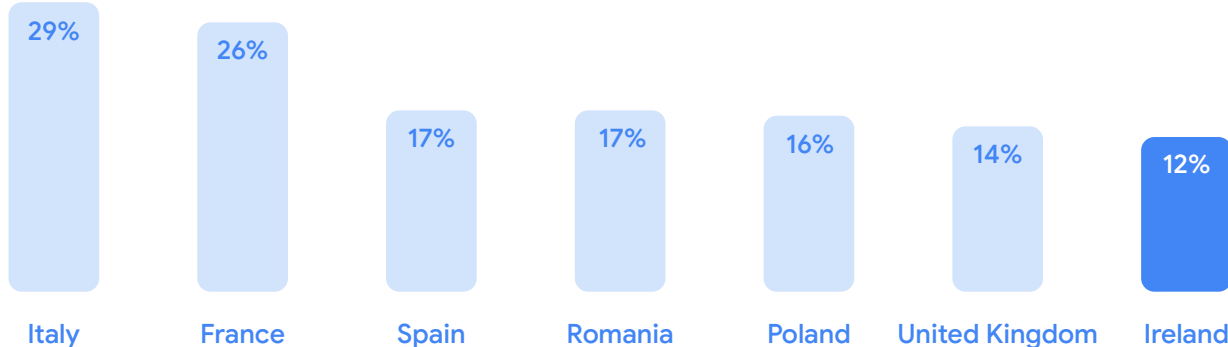
We identified six critical barriers, that have a direct, or indirect, impact on the participation of girls in Computer Science.

Dive deeper into the research with the full report [here](#)

01



Computer Science is often perceived as an isolated subject - rather than a skill to develop.



of girls from Ireland feel they understand Computer Science - the lowest of all markets surveyed.¹

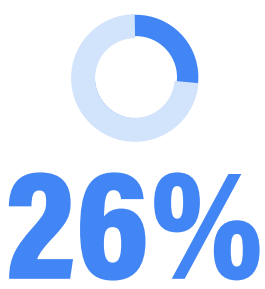
02



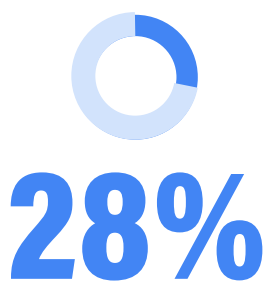
There aren't enough relatable role models, leaving girls to rely on stereotypes in the media to form perceptions of Computer Science.

Ireland had the highest percentages of girls and boys wanting:

'more people like me in the field' at



and 'more relatable role models on social media'.²



03



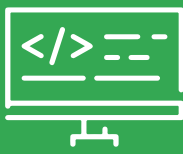
The lack of support for Computer Science teachers directly impacts learner engagement with Computer Science.



34%

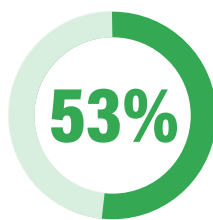
of students in Ireland feel having more learning resources available would increase their confidence in their ability to learn Computer Science/Informatics.³

04

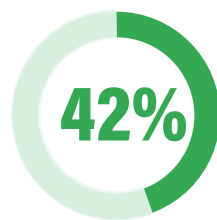


There's a disconnect between what students learn in school and what Computer Science looks like in their daily lives.

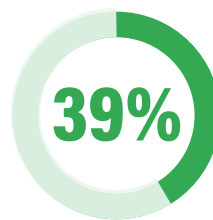
There is a desire for more creative elements when studying Computer Science, with girls from Ireland being most excited about:⁴



Coding



Web Design



Graphic design

05



Parents are disconnected from Computer Science learning.

Many parents don't understand Computer Science and the related opportunities for their children. Only

10%

of girls from Ireland say that doing Informatics/Computer Science would make their family proud.¹

06



Peer networks are limited.

“

Extra curricular coding classes were fun, but then a lot of my friends decided they didn't want to do it. If I did it, I'd be by myself.”

Girl aged 13-16 from Ireland

References:
1. Q34 - Which of the following do you think applies to Informatics/Computer Science? Please select all that apply. Base: Girls split by market
2. Q29 - What would make you feel more confident about your ability to learn Computer Science or Informatics? Please select all that apply. Base: All interested in Computer Science split by market
3. Q29 - What would make you feel more confident about your ability to learn Computer Science or Informatics? Please select all that apply. Base: Girls split by market
4. Q30 - And what do you feel most excited about when studying this field? Please select all that apply. Base: All interested in Computer Science split by market