LeadHER

March 2026



Call for Role Models

Open Call for mentors and role models

www.leadher-ict.eu

Co-funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency.

1. About LeadHER

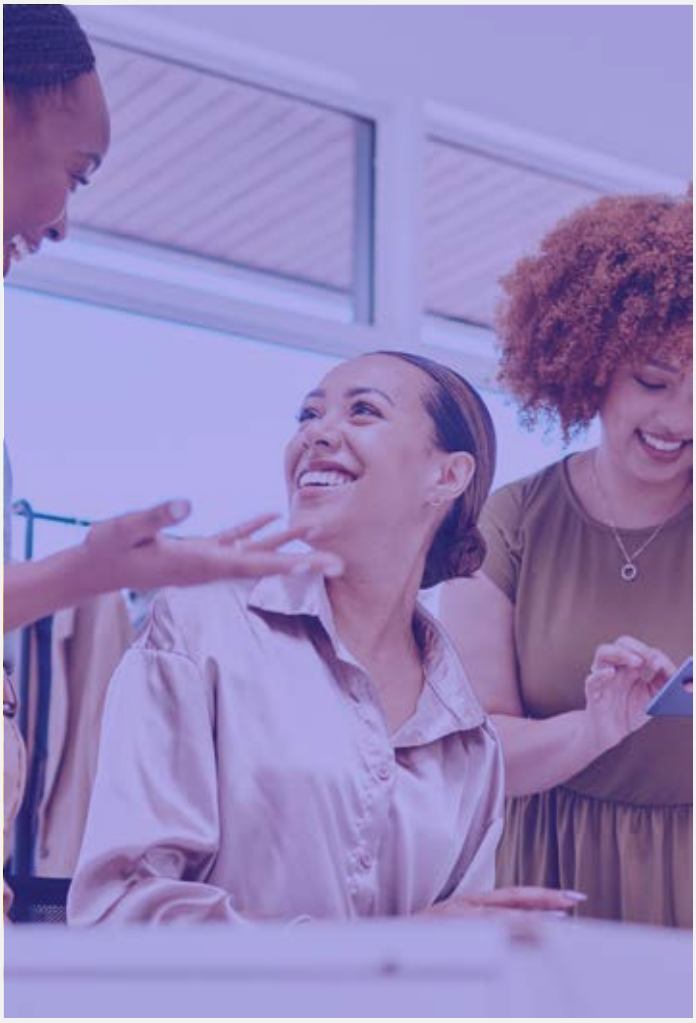
LeadHER is an initiative of a European partnership focused on **increasing girls' participation, confidence, and engagement in ICT** (Information and Communication Technologies) — a field where women and girls remain significantly underrepresented.

The project combines **role modelling, mentoring, and inclusive educational practices** to inspire and empower girls in basic (primary) and secondary education to explore **digital technologies, coding, robotics, and ICT**-related pathways.

LeadHER brings together partners from **Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria** and **Finland**, connecting schools, ICT professionals, families, community organisations, digital educators, and gender-equality advocates to ensure meaningful and lasting impact.



2. Purpose of the Call



Through this open call, LeadHER is looking for Role Models to participate in mentoring activities within the project's pilots.

We are seeking:

- Women working in or studying ICT fields, digital technologies, engineering, or STEM domains.
- Women who use technology meaningfully in their work, studies, entrepreneurship, or community life and want to inspire girls.
- Women with experience in inclusion-focused educational, organisational, or community work, youth guidance, or empowerment initiatives.

Selected applicants will become part of the **LeadHER Role Model Network, a group of inspiring women** who support mentoring sessions and visibility actions to promote gender equality in digital education and ICT.

This call supports the recruitment of at least 10 role models per country (PT, ES, BG) for the pilot phase.



3. What LeadHER Role Models do

Role Models will:

• Participate in mentoring activities within the LeadHER schemes:
- Flexible Interactive Groups
(girls in basic education)
- Dialogical Spaces
(girls in secondary education)

• Engage in non-hierarchical, dialogue-based, trust-building sessions with girls.

• Inspire through personal storytelling, sharing experiences about ICT, education, career paths, challenges, and successes.

• Act as ambassadors for gender equality in digital technologies.

• Participate in optional outreach and visibility activities, such as events, interviews, school visits, videos, or social media features.



Time commitment: Estimated 8–14 hours total, including preparation, mentoring sessions, and optional outreach activities.

4. What LeadHER offers

Role Models will receive:

- Training and briefing on LeadHER mentoring methodologies and dialogical participation
- Guidance and support from local partners
- Visibility on LeadHER's website, publications, and social media
- Networking opportunities with ICT professionals, educators, and community partners
- Personal fulfilment by contributing to girls' empowerment and reduction of gender inequality in ICT fields

5. Who can apply: Eligibility & Selection Criteria

Applications are open to women who:

- ✔ Work, study, or have significant exposure to ICT, digital technologies, engineering, data, STEM, or related fields; AND/OR
- ✔ Have experience in education, youth engagement, mentoring, community involvement, digital literacy, or inclusion-oriented activities.
- ✔ Are available to participate in mentoring and preparation activities during Months September – November 2026 and/or February-March 2027 of the project (approx. 2–4 hours preparation + mentoring sessions).
- ✔ Are motivated to inspire girls and act as positive role models.
- ✔ Speak at least one of the project languages (PT, ES, BG, or EN).

Selection criteria will consider:

- ✔ Relevance of ICT/digital experience
- ✔ Inspirational potential
- ✔ Motivation and willingness to participate
- ✔ Availability for mentoring activities
- ✔ Communication and storytelling ability
- ✔ Diversity of profiles to ensure inclusive representation

Candidates are encouraged to apply even if they do not meet every criterion. A variety of backgrounds and personal stories contribute to a rich and diverse role model network.

6. How to Apply

To apply, complete the LeadHER Role Model Application Form available at: www.leadher-ict.eu

Applications include:

- Personal and professional details
- Short biography (150–300 words)
- Motivation statement
- ICT / digital experience description
- Availability for mentoring and outreach activities
- Optional photo
- Optional short inspirational video or written message



7. Selection Process & Timeline

Action	Timeline
Open call: collecting applications nationally	31st March 2026
Call close	15th May 2026
Final selection and notification of selected role models	25th May 2026
Role model onboarding & preparation sessions	June 2026
Mentoring activities in schools	September – November 2026 | February – March 2027

8. Expected Results

30+

Role Models engaged across Portugal, Spain, and Bulgaria

150+

Girls participating in mentoring sessions



Teachers, families, and community members involved in dialogical, inclusive ICT learning environments



Evidence-based insights and tested methodologies for gender-inclusive digital education



Strengthened local and cross-country networks of women supporting ICT empowerment for girls

9. Contact & Further Information

More information available at:
www.leadher-ict.eu

For national contact points or local inquiries, please reach out to your country partner via the website.


LeadHER