Good Practices of Gender Equality in Germany: TechKreativ

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Overview

• Why girls and technology?
• The workshops
• Projects focusing on girls
Why girls and technology?

- IT is a domain where women are underrepresented
- Short term: show girls how diverse and „cool“ technology can be
- Long term: more girls to chose IT as career path
  - More women in IT
  - Good jobs
  - Give women a voice in new developments
Getting girls interested

• Run workshops they like and that are connected to their lives
• Let them create a personally meaningful artifacts using technology

• „hard fun“
TechKreativ-Workshops

• Perform a whole process of creating, constructing and presenting a physical object using technology
• Explore and understand the functionality of technology
The Concept of the Workshops - Setting

- Time frames: 1 day to 5 days
- 12 – 20 Participants
- Locations: University, School, Youth Hostel, ...
- 2 - 3 Tutors (Research Scientists, University students, Scouts)
- One given topic (e.g. gesture devices, intelligent bags, smart dance, fashion, fairy tales, ...)
The Concept of the Workshops

• 5 Stages
  – Imagination and Fantasy
  – Materials
  – Ideas
  – Conception, Construction and Programming
  – Presentation
What about the girls?

- Smart Dance vs. Spooky Stuff
- LEGO® Mindstorms® vs Cricket
The EduWear - Project

Results

• Meaningfulness
• Attitude towards technology
• Drawing relations to everyday life
The EduWear - Project

• A Smart Textile Construction Kit
• Allows to connect technology to everyday life
• Topics like: dance, fashion, accessories, ..
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- Current project (2011-2013)
- Four female professors
- Computer science as diverse science
- Three main topics:
  - AI, Cognition and Robotics
  - Digital Media and Interaction
  - Security and Quality
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- Accompany research in the fields with Workshops
- 3 workshops to each topic
  - First series in Bremen
  - Second series in Germany
  - Third series in Germany with future tutors
- Find topics that are appealing to girls and boys likewise
- Develop a concept and workshop setting
Thank you!

www.techkreativ.de
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