



European  
Federation of  
**Geologists**

## PRESS RELEASE

### International Women's Day 2025: Advancing Gender Equality in Geosciences

*Brussels, 08.03.25* – 2025 marks a significant year for global efforts toward gender equality, with both the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. While strides have been made, women and girls still face barriers that hinder their full participation in scientific fields. Achieving gender equality in science is essential for a more inclusive and sustainable future. To overcome these obstacles, it's critical to challenge existing stereotypes, promote role models, and create policies that support women's progression in science, fostering environments where diversity, inclusion, and equity are prioritised.

On International Women's Day, the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) reaffirms its commitment to gender equality as a key driver of innovation and sustainability. Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in geoscience professions, limiting the sector's ability to address Europe's resource and environmental challenges effectively.

This vision of a more inclusive scientific community aligns with the importance of Geoeducation. As the world strives for sustainability, integrating geosciences into education systems is essential not only to empower all genders but also to ensure a skilled workforce ready to tackle Europe's biggest challenges, from climate change to digital transformation.

#### **Geoeducation: A Cornerstone for Europe's Competitiveness**

To prepare future generations as responsible stewards of our planet, geoscience must be integrated into national school syllabuses across Europe, ensuring a foundational awareness of Earth's systems. This knowledge is crucial for fostering environmental stewardship and supporting the sustainable use of natural resources. By advancing geoscience education, we can accelerate Europe's shift toward a more resource-efficient society. It's equally important to extend this focus to universities, where further development and communication of geoscience can support the continued recognition of geology educators. Professionally trained geoscientists are essential to achieving the EU Green Deal and Circular Economy goals, while also mitigating geological hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and volcanoes while nurturing a deeper appreciation for our precious resources. As Europe transitions to a green and digital economy, a workforce proficient in geosciences will be crucial, highlighting the urgent need for investment in this field.

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## Breaking Barriers, Strengthening Impact

The geoscience sector is essential for sustainable resource management, climate resilience, and energy transition. However, structural barriers continue to restrict equal opportunities for women. EFG advocates for practical solutions that empower women geoscientists and strengthen Europe's competitiveness, including:

- Greater Access to Professional Development – Expanding training opportunities and lifelong learning to ensure women can thrive in geoscience careers.
- Inclusive Workplace Policies – Encouraging industry and institutions to implement gender-balanced recruitment, leadership development, and flexible work conditions.
- Recognition of Geoscience Qualifications – Ensuring mobility and equal career prospects through streamlined recognition of professional credentials across Europe.
- Increased Representation in Decision-Making – Promoting women's leadership in geoscience-related policy, research, and industry roles.

## EFG's Role in Shaping an Inclusive Future

EFG remains dedicated to fostering a geoscience community that values talent, regardless of gender. Through initiatives such as the EurGeol certification, professional training, and advocacy for fair recognition of qualifications, EFG supports an equitable and diverse workforce.

EFG is also committed to upholding the legacy of the [EU-funded ENGIE project](#), which aimed to increase the interest of secondary school students—particularly girls—in studying geosciences and geo-engineering, thereby improving gender balance in these disciplines. The project created a wealth of resources celebrating diverse role models, including an online course for secondary school science teachers which offers keys to teach geology topics in an attractive way.

EFG is co-organising the [5th International Professional Geology Conference](#) (5th IPGC), which will take place from 5 to 7 November 2025 in Zaragoza, Spain. At the 5th IPGC 2025, key topics related to the 'Profession of Geologist' will be explored, including the theme 'Women in Geology – Breaking Barriers & Fostering Inclusion'.

Geoeducation must be positioned as a strategic pillar for both sustainability and gender equity, driving innovation, empowering diverse industries, strengthening a skilled workforce, and fulfilling Europe's environmental and social commitments. By promoting gender equality



in geoscience education and employment, we can ensure that all individuals, regardless of gender, have equal access to opportunities in shaping the continent's future.

International Women's Day is a call to action: by removing barriers and enabling equal opportunities, geosciences can lead the way in building a more inclusive and sustainable Europe.