

Topic/Lesson Title: **WOMEN IN SCIENCE**

**Czech Republic**

(Pictures from Freepik)



Aims/Goals or SWBATs (Students will be able to.....)

- Increase reading comprehension by studying the situation of women in science in the Czech Republic
- Improve listening skill through an audio about Czechia's lowest representation of women in science
- Advance speaking skills through debate and presentations
- Practice writing by suggesting solutions to problems
- Compare the situation with their own country (or region) (optional)

Age group: 14-15

Level: B1 (pre-intermediate / intermediate)

Time (Lesson duration): 2 lessons (50 minutes)

Materials:

Computer

Projector

Videocamera

Worksheets provided by the teachers

Students' notebooks

Lead-in *What's going to happen here to introduce your students to the topic?* Time 7min  
*Teacher provides students a document with a short text about the situation of women in science in the Czech Republic today. (It is only the introduction of a real article)*

**DOCUMENT 1**

<https://www.avcr.cz/en/news-archive/Whats-the-situation-of-women-in-science-in-the-Czech-Republic-today/>

*What can students predict or do to get started with the lesson? Time 10 min*

- What do you know about the International Day of Women and Girls in Science? (Students have studied this topic in the previous year)
- Do you think in Europe Women equal Men in Science?
- Find out the proportion of women scientists in Europe

*What vocabulary could teachers focus on? What needs to be pre-taught? Time 3min*

*Vocabulary about Proportion and Percentages (Increase, decrease, loss)*

*Vocabulary about the importance of Women in Science (Gender equality/disparity, promote, professions)*

*Students are given a worksheet with some vocabulary*

*What kinds of texts can students **listen** to or **read** to deepen their knowledge? Time 15 min*

The teacher provides an interview about the low representation of women in science in Czechia. **DOCUMENT 3** (It is only the introduction of a real interview)

<https://english.radio.cz/whats-behind-czechias-lowest-representation-women-science-8838242>

*What kinds of questions can students answer from the **listening** or **reading**? How many should they answer? What should they notice or analyze? Time 15 min*

From documents 1 and 3, students should answer these questions:

- What is the aim of the celebration of February 11<sup>th</sup>?
- Whats is the difference between lecturer and professor? (find out)
- Calculate the number of women among researchers in Czechia.
- Has the situation changed over the years?
- Where can we find the biggest loss?

What will students **speak** about in pairs or in small groups? Time 5 min  
Talk to each other about this topic.  
Present as group to the other groups.

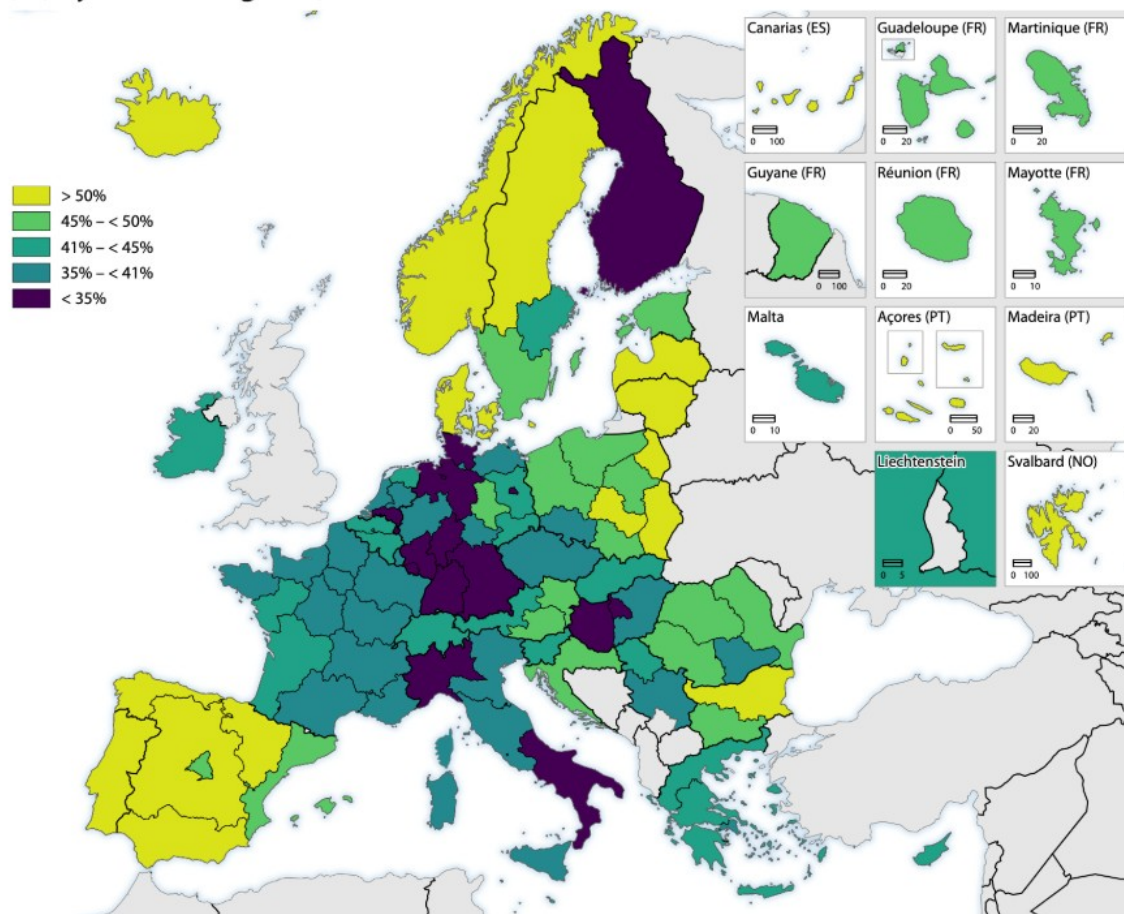
What will students **write** about during class time or for homework? Time 10min  
Imagine that you are the Czech Minister of Education and you want to encourage women to do research in science.  
Write a short essay with at least 2 ideas.

What are other follow up (or homework) activities that can be included? Time 30 min  
Make a video with 3 partners with all your ideas  
Suggestion: [https://youtu.be/Rj04gU\\_bwvl?si=T0nSXeNzcYt1nVsb](https://youtu.be/Rj04gU_bwvl?si=T0nSXeNzcYt1nVsb)

Other thoughts about this lesson plan:  
The following lesson could focus on the comparison between the situation in Czech Republic and your own country or region.

[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20230210-1#:~:text=Among%20the%20EU%20Member%20States,%25\)%20and%20Finland%20\(31%25\).](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20230210-1#:~:text=Among%20the%20EU%20Member%20States,%25)%20and%20Finland%20(31%25).)

## Proportion of women scientists and engineers, 2021 (%, by NUTS 1 regions)



Regional data for Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Slovenia and Slovakia: Single regions at this level of detail. Bremen (DE5), Saarland (DEC), Corsica (FRM), Åland Islands (FI17): Break in time series, low reliability.

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat  
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 02/2023

eurostat

## DOCUMENT 1



**The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which falls on 11 February, aims to promote gender equality in science. However, the proportion of female researchers in the Czech Republic is consistently among the lowest in the entire EU. In 2020, it was only 27%. Regarding Czech academia, while there are more female university lecturers than men, only 15% of professors are women. The situation is also unsatisfactory in terms of representation in decision-making bodies in research. For example, only 7% of women serve as directors of public research institutions.**

Although the total number of researchers in the Czech Republic is growing, the representation of women is stagnating. According to the latest monitoring report on the position of women in science conducted by the Centre for Gender and Science (NKC), men are predominant in all research professions. Despite the situation, the NKC, which falls under the Institute of Sociology of the CAS, is the only specialised centre in Central and Eastern Europe that focuses on advancing gender equality in research and higher education institutions.

(...)

<https://www.avcr.cz/en/news-archive/Whats-the-situation-of-women-in-science-in-the-Czech-Republic-today/>



## DOCUMENT 2

1.- Match:

Promote

Loss

Gender equality

Gender disparity

engineer

chemist

forensic

physicist



## DOCUMENT 3

### **What's behind Czechia's lowest representation of women in science?**

🕒 12/27/2024



[What's behind Czechia's lowest representation of women in science?](#)

Length of audio 6:25

Illustrative photo: brendageisse, Pixabay, [Pixabay License](#)



**Czechia has long struggled with one of the lowest shares of female researchers in the EU, and a recent report from the Czech Academy of Science's Centre for Gender and Science has revealed that the country now ranks last in this regard. I discussed the key findings with the centre's director, Marcela Linková:**

"In the Czech Republic, we have approximately 49,500 employees in research and innovation. Researchers account for 57% of all the people employed in this sector and the representation of women among researchers was only 24%.

"And we have not seen any positive trend since the time we started collecting statistical information in 2005. So essentially, it remains at 24% over this entire period of time. And this is despite the fact that we see huge increases in the proportions of women among students at all levels of education.



Marcela Linková | Photo: Šárka Ševčíková, Czech Radio

"So we can really see a tendency for the disparity between women and men in the educational path to converge, but we do not see this translated into the research staff. And the biggest loss that we can see is in the natural sciences, where we essentially lose 50% of women who complete their PhDs and do not proceed on the research path."

