

## **WOMEN IN NUCLEAR - THE ORGANISATION STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND DEVELOPING THE COMPETENCE OF WOMEN WORKING IN THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

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Despite significant progress in access to education, women in technical professions, especially nuclear ones, are still underrepresented. This is due to various reasons, for example organizational culture in employing companies, career breaks related to maternity, but also as stereotypical perceptions of social roles, which vary from country to country. Nevertheless, it seems important that women have the opportunity to do work in line with their interests, even if these are so-called "difficult professions". Women working professionally in various areas of nuclear energy and applications of ionising radiation founded the Women in Nuclear Global organization, which is active in 145 countries with more than 35,000 members. Polish chapter, Women in Nuclear Polska (WiN Polska), was founded in 2013. It brings together people supporting nuclear science and people related to this field, with particular emphasis on women. The one of the goals of the WiN Polska association is to promote the role of women in the nuclear engineering professions, including actions to make careers in science and industry more attractive, together with information on the availability of nuclear engineering careers for women and to promote education and training in the nuclear field. In this respect, exchange of experience and development of skills of WIN activists seems to be extremely important. The objectives of the WIN Polska include also popularising nuclear technology issues, raising awareness of nuclear technology applications and respect for the environment in their use. Our intention is bringing together representatives of science, technology and education, governmental bodies, local authorities, and national and international companies around the idea of the WIN association as well as to promote cooperation between industry and science through the dissemination and implementation of new technical solutions in economic practice and to support invention and innovation in research centres and industry.

Members of the Chapter are involved in disseminating knowledge about the applications of nuclear energy, especially among children and adolescents. They would like to present the nuclear sector to girls and women in an accessible way and encourage them to get involved in working in it. In order to make the nuclear sector in Poland more friendly to society, thematic lectures are organised, addressed to a wide audience.

Our goal is to encourage women outside the industry in which we operate to have a positive perception of nuclear energy, thereby contributing to raising public awareness of the significant impact of the peaceful use of nuclear technology on stopping climate change.

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