

## Schoolgirls from All Over Ukraine Presented in Lviv their Problem-Solving IT-Projects



**July 29, 2017, Lviv, Ukraine** – Twenty-five girls from all over Ukraine presented innovative IT-projects aimed at solving various urban problems. The presentation took place in Technovation Summer Camp, organized by Western NIS Enterprise Fund in cooperation with Peace Corps Ukraine in the course of the Technovation Ukraine project.

The girls came with a number of mobile application projects bearing significant social impact, namely an application that, by using big data, finds interesting school program learning content, which is not included in the textbooks; an application that identifies the closest points of waste separation in the city; an application that finds the necessary medicines in all hospitals of the city, and many others.

*"Western NIS Enterprise Fund is convinced that Ukraine needs to pay particular attention to women's leadership. Technovation Summer Camp is one in the major initiatives that helps girls understand their role in society, break all the stereotypes about women that the environment impose and make this world a better place. The camp gave them a chance to see various aspects of life where IT can be an effective tool of qualitative changes", said Iryna Ozymok, Local Economic Development Program Manager of Western NIS Enterprise Fund.*

Technovation Summer Camp is a camp-like programming school for adolescent girls from all over Ukraine. This year Lviv houses this school from 24 till 30 July. Girls work with the experienced mentors to develop their own mobile applications – programs and solutions aimed to fight the community problems of their

cities and serve for the improvement of municipal services. The camp has brought together 25 girls aged 14-17 years from all over Ukraine, who were selected on a competitive basis (3 candidates per place). The girls are given intensive training in coding, STEM skills and business modeling; they've already visited the City Council and several IT-companies in Lviv, as well as the "Fest" company and the "Republic" plant.

*"The experience that we gained here has a much greater effect than as if we'd read 50 books at home. By networking with innovative and progressive people, we've got inspired for change, we've discovered new opportunities, and now we can clearly see that all our ideas can be implemented,"* commented **Khrystyna Sosiak, a student of Ivano-Frankivsk school №2, a participant at Technovation Summer Camp.**

*"The idea of the camp came to Peace Corps volunteers who helped and mentored the girl teams during the IT-entrepreneurship competition for schoolgirls, called Technovation Challenge. Owing to the synergy of Peace Corps volunteers, Western NIS Enterprise Fund and Technovation Ukraine this camp became a reality: 25 girls from all over Ukraine spent seven unforgettable days in Ukrainian Catholic University, one of the best universities of Ukraine where they were informally learning STEM and IT-entrepreneurship by the curriculum of the Technovation Challenge. We hope that these 25 girls will be generators of ideas and changes in their communities, and get motivated to learn STEM. We also hope that the girls will make teams and will participate in the Technovation Challenge 2018",* said **Nadiia Babynska (Virna), Technovation Ukraine Co-coordinator.**

The Technovation project aims to popularize programming among women, support girls in the IT sector and develop women's leadership. This year in May Western NIS Enterprise Fund supported the organizing of the first National Technovation Challenge – a pitching of projects, developed by schoolgirls from all over Ukraine. The winning team, which has developed a mobile app to measure air pollution in Zaporizhzhia called the Air Near will attend the World Pitch Summit in San Francisco, USA, on August 7-11, 2017.

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**Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF)** is a \$150 million regional fund, a pioneer in Ukraine and Moldova with more than two decades of successful experience in investing in small and medium-sized companies. WNISEF was funded by the U.S. government via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since its inception, WNISEF's cumulative investments total over \$168 million to 118 companies employing around 25 000 people and made it possible to unlock \$1.5 billion for companies in Ukraine and Moldova. In 2015 WNISEF has launched a \$35 million legacy program focused on export promotion, local economic development, impact investing and economic leadership. WNISEF is funding innovative, high-impact, reform focused programs aimed to transform lives of the ordinary people in Ukraine and Moldova. [www.wnisef.org](http://www.wnisef.org)

**Technovation** is a program of US-based organization Iridescent. It is volunteer-run and free for girls aged 10 to 18 years old. Participants work in teams of 3-5 for a couple of hours after school once or twice a week, during 12-20 weeks from December to April. Once they submit their project, they compete with other teams around the world for a chance to travel to San Francisco and pitch their idea to get funding from the technology giants who partner with the program. Teacher, parents, IT professionals and other interested adults can volunteer as mentors to get free access to online resources and a chance to support the girls in this exciting educational program. Prior experience in IT is not required either from the girls or from their mentors, but a willingness to learn is imperative. Technovation Team wants the next generation of women to not just be consumers of technology, but creators and innovators. In the last years, Technovation has grown into a network of the best and brightest entrepreneurs, coaches and mentors from around the globe, who are passing on their skills on to a new generation to help create a worldwide web of tech-savvy, knowledge-hungry girls willing to learn, socialize, and create something to change the world, their world. We stand by young women who lead the change by solving problems in their community.

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