

The proportion of women studying Engineering in the Basque Country rose by almost 3 percentage points in the last 10 years

12,103 women were engaged in R&D in the Basque Country, equivalent to 38% of the total number of people working in this field

According to data prepared by Eustat to analyse **the presence of women in Science in the Basque Country**, both in university education and in R&D, to mark the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** celebrated today, 11 February, the proportion of women in the **branch of Engineering**, one of the most male-dominated fields of study, increased slightly over the last ten years. Specifically, it grew 2.7 percentage points, going from 25% in the 2010/2011 academic year to 27.7% in 2019/2020.

Although this field is male-dominated and the evolution has been disparate, since practically all of the degrees with less than a quarter of women students belong to this branch, some specialisms with a high prevalence of women stood out, such as Fundamentals of Architecture, with women accounting for 57%, Industrial Engineering and Product Development, with 53.1%, and Industrial Chemical Engineering, with 58.3%.

In the **Sciences** branch, there was a more equal proportion of men and women in some specialisms. For example, in Mathematics, the percentage of women reached 48% and in the case of Chemistry, this figure rose to 54.2%. However, the study of Physics continued to be a predominantly male choice and the proportion of women stood at 27.9%.

In **Health Sciences**, all the degrees were very female-dominated and some of them are becoming increasingly so. The highest percentage of women was in Nursing, with 84.1%, similar to the 2010/2011 academic year. In Medicine, another very characteristic and sought after branch of Health Sciences, the percentage stood at 73.4% in 2019/2020, significantly higher than the 67.6% in 2010/2011. Dentistry recorded similar data and increases to Medicine, rising from 67.6% to 74.2%.

In general, there was a considerable proportion of women undergraduate students, reaching 55%, 10 percentage points more than that of men. In **university education**, which includes, in addition to undergraduate degrees, all types of studies carried out at university (masters, doctorates, etc.), women accounted for 54% and the vast majority of them, 75.80%, studied a degree in the field of Health and Social Services, whereas **only 17.40% took degrees in Information & Communications Technology (ICT)**.

In 2020, 38% of the total number of people working in R&D were women, compared to 31.3% in 2003 and 22.3% in 1993

In the Basque Country, a total of 31,922 people worked in R&D in 2020, of whom 12,103 were women, representing 38% of the total. Of the total number of people employed in this field, 61.51% of **Public Administration** workers were women, followed by **Education**, where there was barely any difference between men and women (49.9% female) and, lastly, the **Business** sector, where they accounted for just 29.5%.

By scientific discipline, Engineering was the activity where the most people worked in R&D, with 20,219, or 63.3% of the total. It was also the largest employer of women, as 47.1% of women working in R&D were engineers, although this proportion was much lower than that of men, with 73.3%. However, of the total number of women working in R&D, 23.8% of them were employed in **Medical Sciences**, compared to 9.7% of the total number of men, and 15.5% worked in **Social Sciences**, versus 7.8% of men who worked in R&D.

A significant rise **in the number of women in R&D** has been observed in recent years. They accounted for 22.3% in 1993, 31.3% in 2003, and this figure has steadily increased to reach the current percentage of 37.7%. **The number of women in R&D increased from 1,928 in 1993 to 12,103 in 2020**. The scientific discipline that was the biggest driver of this change in trend was Engineering, with the percentage of women in R&D doubling from 14.1% to 28.2%.

For further information:

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DÍA INTERNACIONAL DE LA MUJER Y LA NIÑA EN LA CIENCIA 11/02/2022



12.103

Mujeres en Euskadi
dedicadas a I+D

I+D en **Biotechnología**

2007 → 2020

661
Mujeres
empleadas

1.332
Mujeres
empleadas

+101%

Representación de la mujer

Por nivel educativo

54% **49%** **35%**



Euskadi
38%

Mujeres

Representación de la mujer

Por sectores

61,51%

Administración

49,74%

Enseñanza
superior

29,45%

Empresa

En Formación Profesional (FP)

Sanidad **76%**



Química **59%**



En ámbito técnico científico



Salud y servicios
sociales

75,80%

5.930
Mujeres



Ciencias naturales,
químicas, físicas y
matemáticas

48,80%

2.158
Mujeres



Mecánica, electrónica y
otra formación técnica;
industria y construcción

29,30%

3.922
Mujeres



Tecnologías de la
información y las
comunicaciones (TIC)

17,40%

370
Mujeres