

In the Basque Country, 12,162 women are involved in R&D, equivalent to 38% of the total people who work in this field

Although 56% of university students are women, 75% of them are studying degrees related to health and social services, compared to 29% in mechanics, electronics or other technical training

Today, 11 February, the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** is celebrated to highlight the presence of women in the world of science. Eustat is analysing women's participation in science in the Basque Country through their involvement in R&D activities and in secondary and university education.

In the Basque Country, **a total of 32,232 people worked in R&D in 2019, of whom 12,162 were women**, according to Eustat data. Of the total number of people employed in this field, 60% of **Public Administration** workers are women, followed by **Education**, where there is barely any difference between men and women (49.9% female) and, lastly, the **Business** sector, where they account for only 29.5%.

By scientific discipline, **Engineering** is the activity where the most people work in R&D, with 20,614, or 64% of the total. It is also the largest employer of women, as 48.5% of women who work in R&D are engineers, although this proportion is much lower than that of men, with 73.3%. However, of the total number of women working in R&D, 22.8% of them are employed in the **Medical Sciences**, compared to 9.3% of the total number of men, and 15% work in the **Social Sciences**, versus 7.8% of men who work in R&D.

Trends in the presence of women in R&D

A considerable increase **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 it has steadily increased to 37.7% at present. **The number of women in R&D has increased from 1,928 in 1993 to 12,162 in 2019**. The scientific discipline that was the biggest driver of this trend was **Engineering**, with the number of women in R&D doubling from 14.1% to 28.6% at present.

Women in Universities, Upper Secondary Education and Vocational Training (academic year 2018-2019)

If we look at **Universities**, 56% of students are women. Whereas, of the number of women studying a science degree, the vast majority (75.49%) study degrees in **Health and Social Sciences**, 28.94% are taking degrees related to **Mechanics, Electronics and other technical training, Industry and Construction**, and 16.76% in **Information and Communication Technologies**. In **Natural Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics** degrees, women account for 49.70% of students.

In Upper Secondary Education, there is an equal proportion of boys and girls, but there is a stronger female presence in **all options except Science**, with 48%. It is worth noting the higher number of girls enrolled in **Arts and Humanities**, 70%, followed by **Social Sciences**, with 60%.

Lastly, in **Vocational Training**, 33% are girls who primarily opt for **Personal Image**, where they account for 90%; **Textile, Garments and Leather** and **Socio-Cultural and Community Services**, with 80% in both cases; **Healthcare**, with 75%; **Administration and Management**, with 60%; and **Food and Beverage and Chemical Industries**, also with 60%. The remaining courses offered are clearly male-dominated, except **Business and Marketing**, where there is parity.

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