

Science is 'girl thing', says Europe campaign

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Girls explore a display at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw in 2010. With few women in Europe taking up research jobs, a campaign launched Thursday by the EU executive seeks to convince teenagers that science is a "girl thing."

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"Science does not just mean old men in white coats," said Research and Science Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn. "The under-representation of women in a sector so vital to our economy does not make sense at a time when Europe is fighting for more growth and jobs."

Women represent more than half the students across the 27-nation

European Union and 45 per cent of all doctorates but account for only one third of career researchers, the [European Commission](#) said.

With the EU needing up to one million more researchers by 2020, the three-year campaign will seek to get [teenage girls](#) interested in studying science, technology, engineering and maths.

A second phase will encourage female students to pursue scientific careers.

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