

The Ministry of Defence strengthens its commitment to female talent in STEAM fields

The Women, Engineering and Defence (MID) project, promoted by the Secretary of State for Defence together with the Royal Academy of Engineering (RAING), ISDEFE, Fundación Círculo and Fundación Feindef, has joined the STEAM Alliance for Female Talent “Girls Standing Up for Science”, promoted by the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports.

Madrid, 15 April 2026. The Spanish Ministry of Defence, represented by the Secretary of State for Defence, María Amparo Valcarce, took part in the signing ceremony marking the MID project's incorporation into the STEAM Alliance, chaired by the Minister of Education, Vocational Training and Sports, Milagros Tolón Jaime. This new partnership strengthens institutional cooperation aimed at promoting scientific and technological vocations among girls and young women, while advancing efforts to reduce the gender gap in STEAM fields.

During the event, the importance of promoting strategic partnerships between public administrations, academic institutions and the technological and industrial ecosystem was highlighted as a means to foster equal opportunities and support the development of female talent in strategic sectors for the future.

In this context, the Secretary of State for Defence stressed that “female representation within the defence sector remains low. Women account for only 18% of the workforce in defence companies, highlighting the need to strengthen proactive equality policies.”

The Minister also underlined that “the STEAM gap is not a question of capability, but of culture and role models. The issue is not talent itself, but persistent stereotypes and the lack of visibility of female references.”

The signing ceremony brought together all the organisations supporting this collaboration:

- Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports: Milagros Tolón Jaime, Minister.
- Ministry of Defence: María Amparo Valcarce García, Secretary of State for Defence.
- Nuclear Safety Council: Pilar Lucio Carrasco, Vice-President.
- Royal Academy of Engineering (RAING): Jaime Domínguez Abascal, President.
- ISDEFE: Manuel Cutrín Domínguez, Chief Executive Officer.
- Fundación Círculo for Defence and Security Technologies: Félix Pérez Martínez, President.
- Fundación Feindef: Ángel Olivares Ramírez, President.
- State Postal and Telegraph Company (Correos): Pedro Saura García, President.

The STEAM Alliance for Female Talent “Girls Standing Up for Science” already brings together more than 200 companies and organisations, consolidating its position as a leading initiative for promoting STEAM vocations from an early age and strengthening female talent in strategic sectors.

With this new partnership, the Ministry of Defence reinforces its commitment to equal opportunities, the promotion of female talent and the development of public policies aimed at ensuring greater participation of women and girls in scientific, technological and engineering fields linked to defence and security.