



## WIA-E Friday Lunch Meeting

### “Leaving your native country or staying - what is the best choice for a young woman starting an aerospace career?”

29<sup>th</sup> of May

The WIA-E Rome Local Group (LG) moderated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2020 the weekly WIA-E Friday Lunch Meeting, focusing the discussion on the theme "Leaving your native country or staying - what is the best choice for a young woman starting an aerospace career?".

28 participants of different nationalities (African, Turkish, Italian, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, English, Mexican, American, Swiss, Indian, Swedish, Canadian, Austrian) from all over Europe joined the meeting to share their experiences. The two event's moderators (Alessia Gloder and Alice Pellegrino from the WIA-E Rome LG core team) started by presenting the main purposes of the meeting and the reasons behind such a topic. The idea for the event was to focus the discussion on the different perspectives of women working in the aerospace domain who decided to leave their native country to work abroad and women who decided to stay. The core aim of such a discussion was to eventually provide support to other young women that are going to face this situation and choice very soon.

The Aerospace field is a very rich and international environment, and the alternatives are many. Unfortunately, not all the countries and cities offer the same possibilities. Depending on the dreams for the future and self-ambition, young women might be obliged and pushed in choosing to leave or to stay.

After a brief personal introduction of all the participants, the moderators invited them to share their experiences and to explain their reasons behind the choice to remain and work in the native

country and/or to move abroad to start the career somewhere else.

The participants gladly intervened and share different experiences.

It was agreed by all that there are several pros and cons in leaving the home country and for sure, it is never an easy choice. One must be ready to leave the family and friends behind, with the consciousness of not being fully part of their lives anymore. In the end, home is home, and not all the places might feel the same, especially if dealing with a completely different culture and reality. Despite recognizing these drawbacks, the majority of women encouraged young ones to not being afraid in taking the big step. Being abroad and out of the comfort zone is in fact seen as a personal test that surely helps growing and enriching yourself as a human being and as a professional. There is plenty of chances out there, while sometimes the native country is not offering the same level of opportunities in terms of job availability, salary, career, etc. if compared to other countries. Not having a restriction in terms of a job's location increases the career's chances. Furthermore, working and living in an international environment is very stimulating and helps to open the minds, even though sometimes such an experience makes people evaluate things in different ways, changing priorities. Indeed, several participants encouraged young women to try an experience abroad prior to have a family, as it is easier to move when other people do not depend on you.





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