

Digitalization and Women's Empowerment in Argentina

Argentine-German Women20 Outreach Dialogue
March 20th, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Alina Sorgner

Christiane Krieger-Boden

Eckhardt Bode

Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany



Gender Equality in Argentina

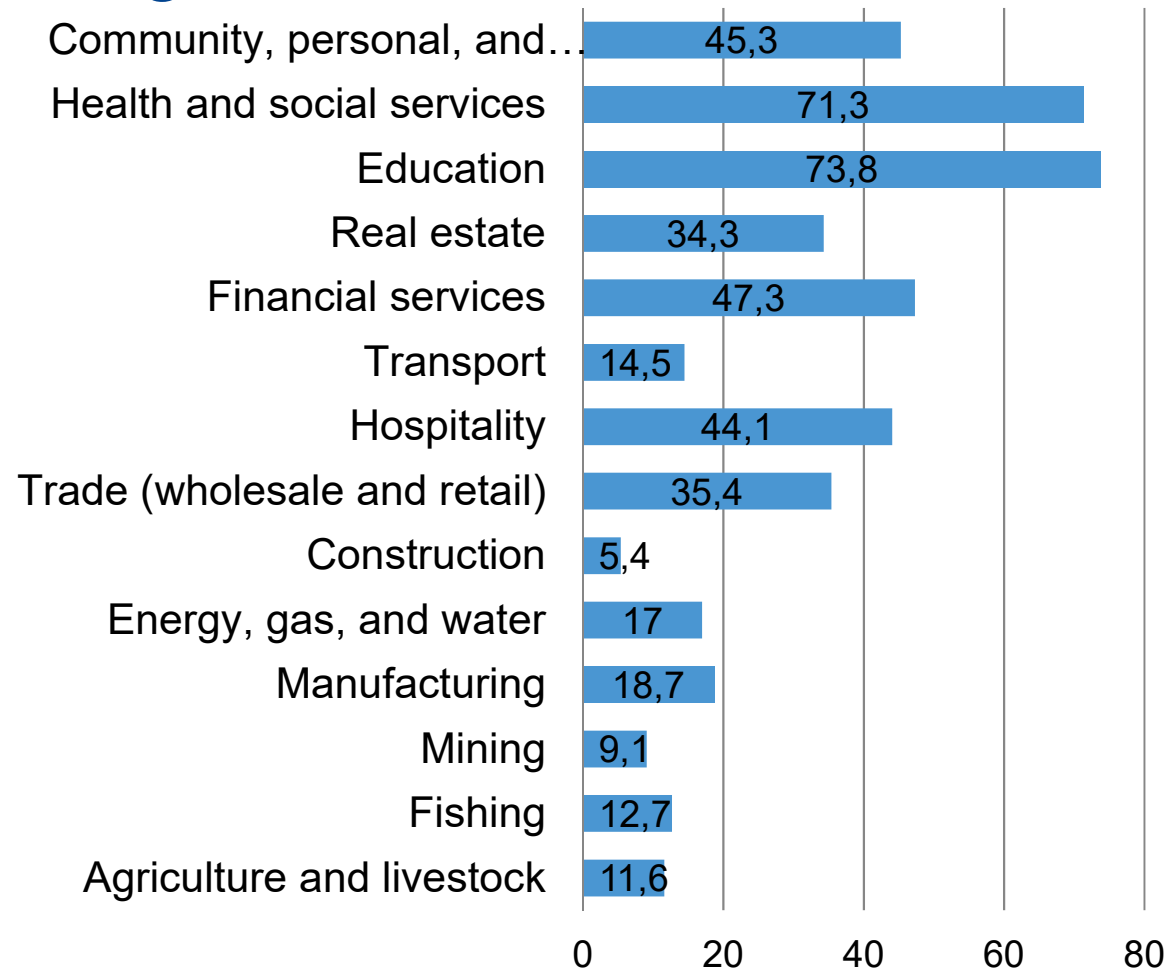
	2016 rank (out of 144 countries)	2006 rank (out of 115 countries)	Change 2006 to 2016
Global Gender Gap Index	33	41	+
Economic participation and opportunity	101	82	-
Educational attainment	54	29	-
Health and survival	1	1	0
Political empowerment	22	23	+

Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Gender Gap Report - 2016

Economic participation and opportunity

	rank	female	male	f/m ratio
Economic participation and opportunity	101			0.62
Labour force participation	94	56	82	0.69
Legislators, senior officials, and managers	73	30	70	0.42
Professional and technical workers	1	56	44	1.27
Unemployed adults		6	4	1.45
Wage equality for similar work (survey)				0.51
Educational attainment				
Literacy rate	-	98	98	1
STEM graduates	-	9	23	0.41
Access to assets				
Account ownership	-	51	49	1.03

Female participation rates by industry in Argentina

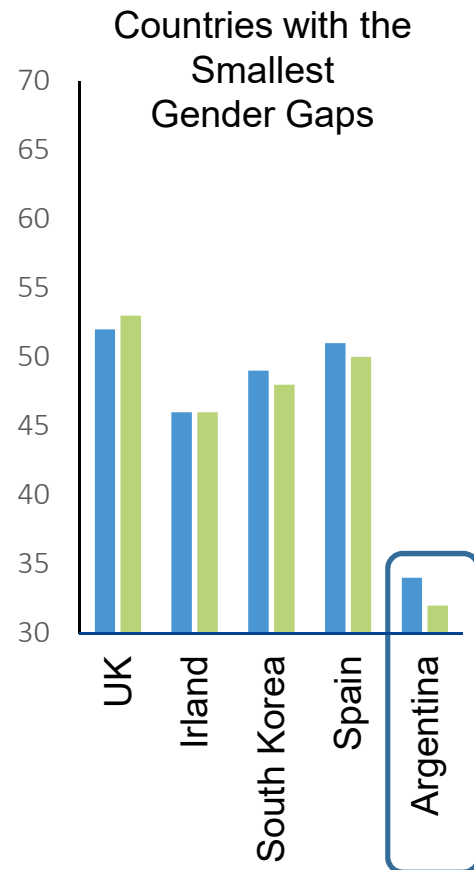
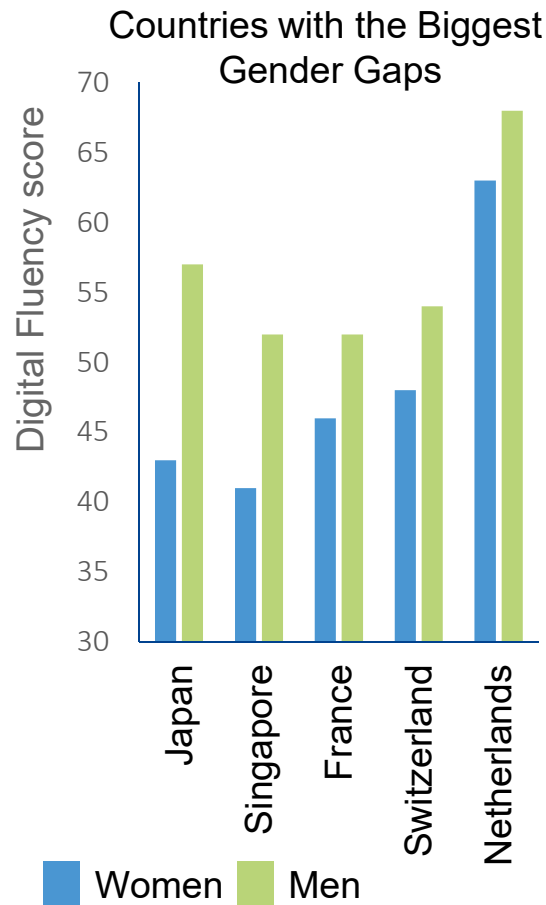


- Women fill the majority of traditionally female positions in the fields of education, health, and service

Source: WISAT Country Report for Argentina

Gender Gaps in Digital Fluency

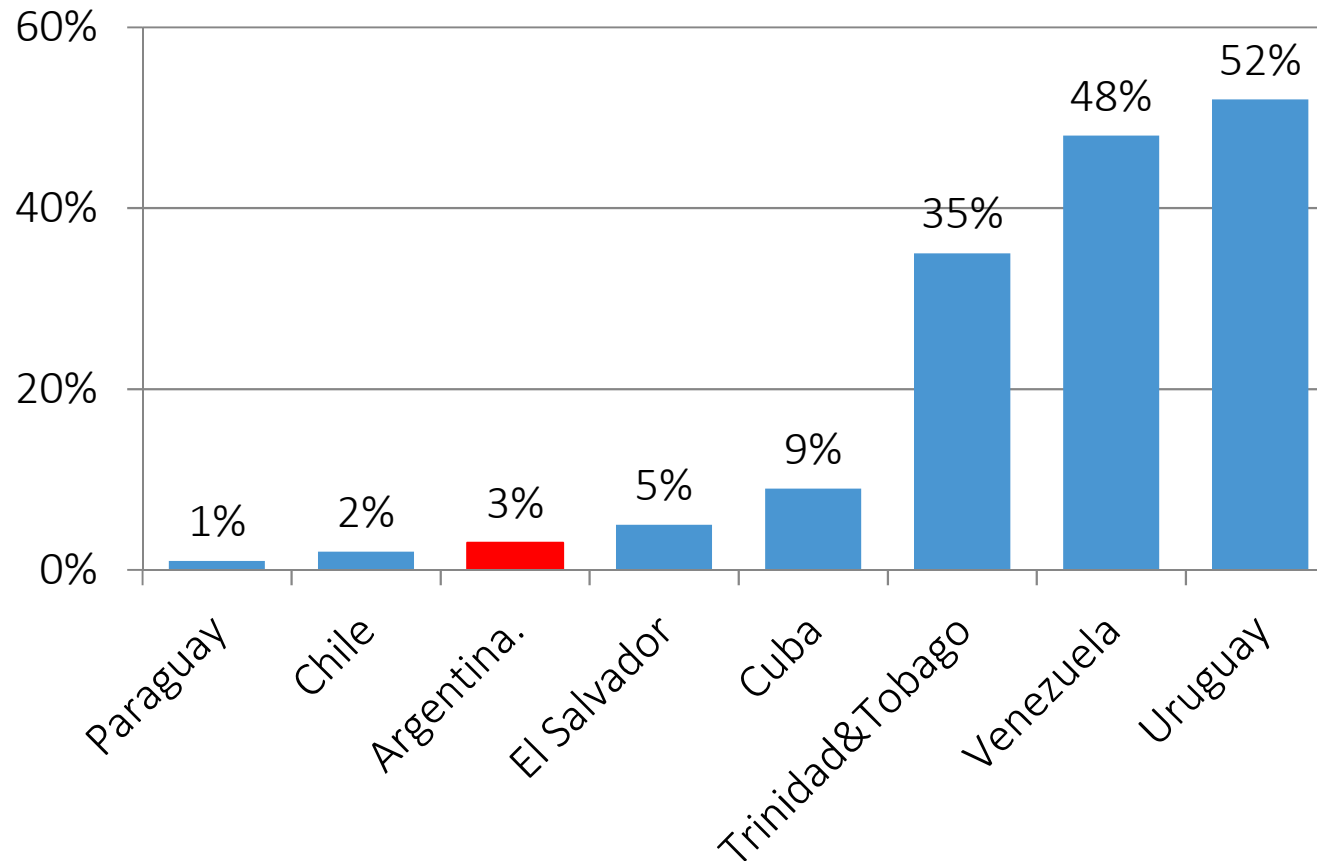
- Digital Fluency is the extent to which women and men embrace and use digital technologies to become more knowledgeable, connected and effective



- The gender gap in digital fluency in Argentina is slightly negative
- But: the overall average digital fluency score is moderate, ranging between 30 – 35 points

Source: Getting to Equal: How Digital is Helping Close the Gender Gap at Work, Accenture 2016

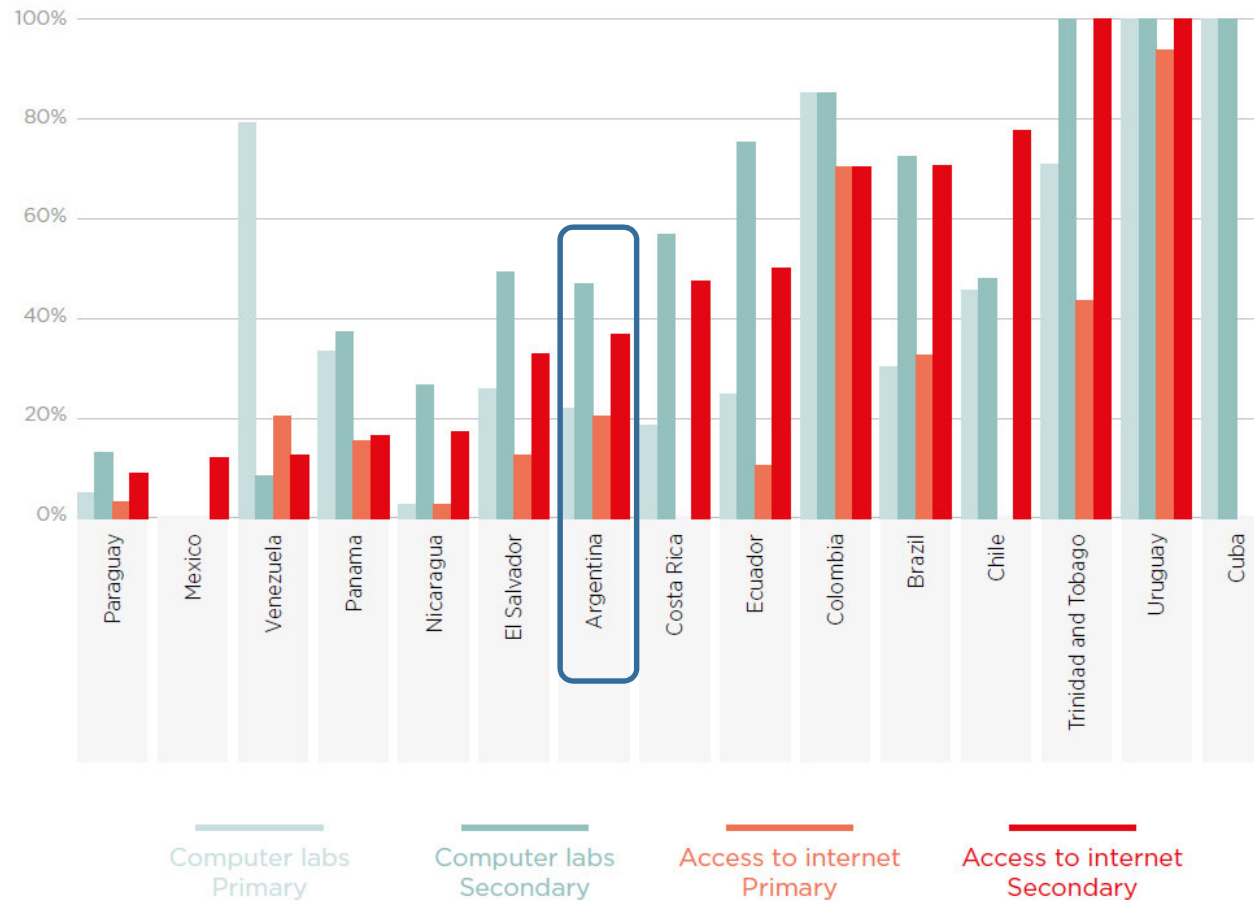
ICT skills of teaching personnel



- Only 3% of teachers in Argentina at primary and secondary educational level are qualified with basic computing skills.

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2012.

Computer and internet access at educational institutions

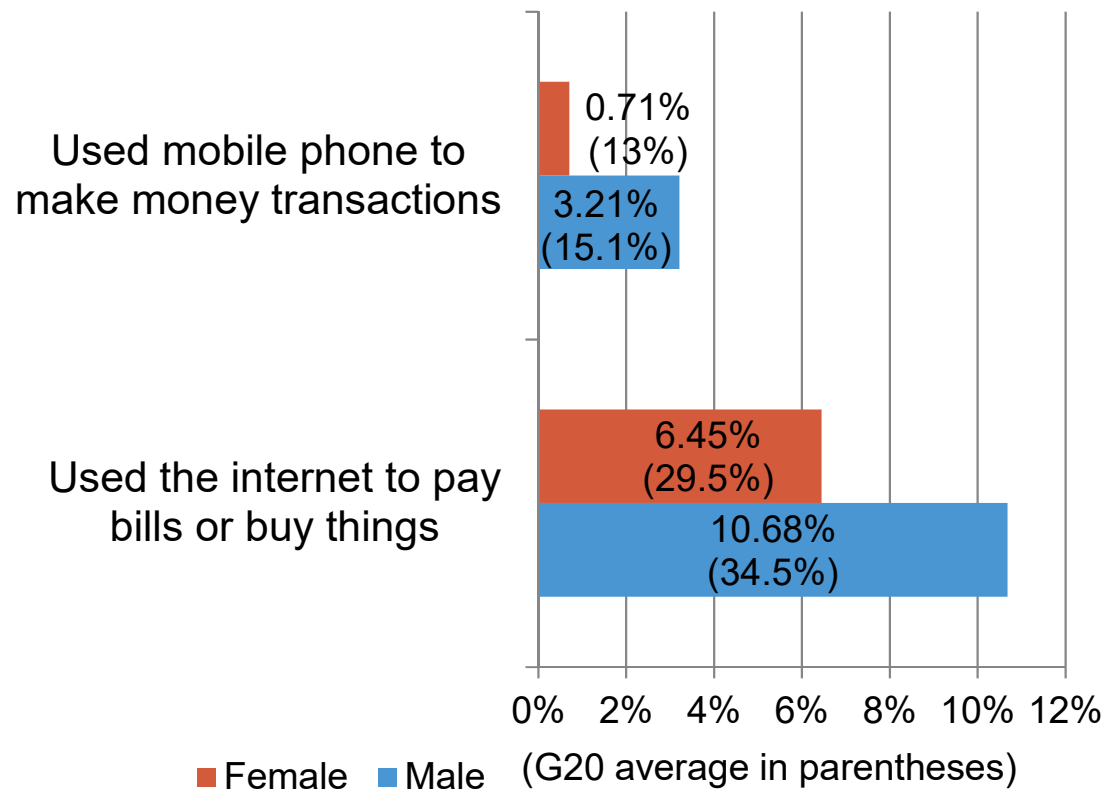


In Argentina:

- About 50% of educational institutions at a secondary level are equipped with computer labs
- Less than 40% of educational institutions at a secondary level have access to internet

Source: GSMA (2016): Digital inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mobile and digital technologies (MDT) for financial inclusion in Argentina

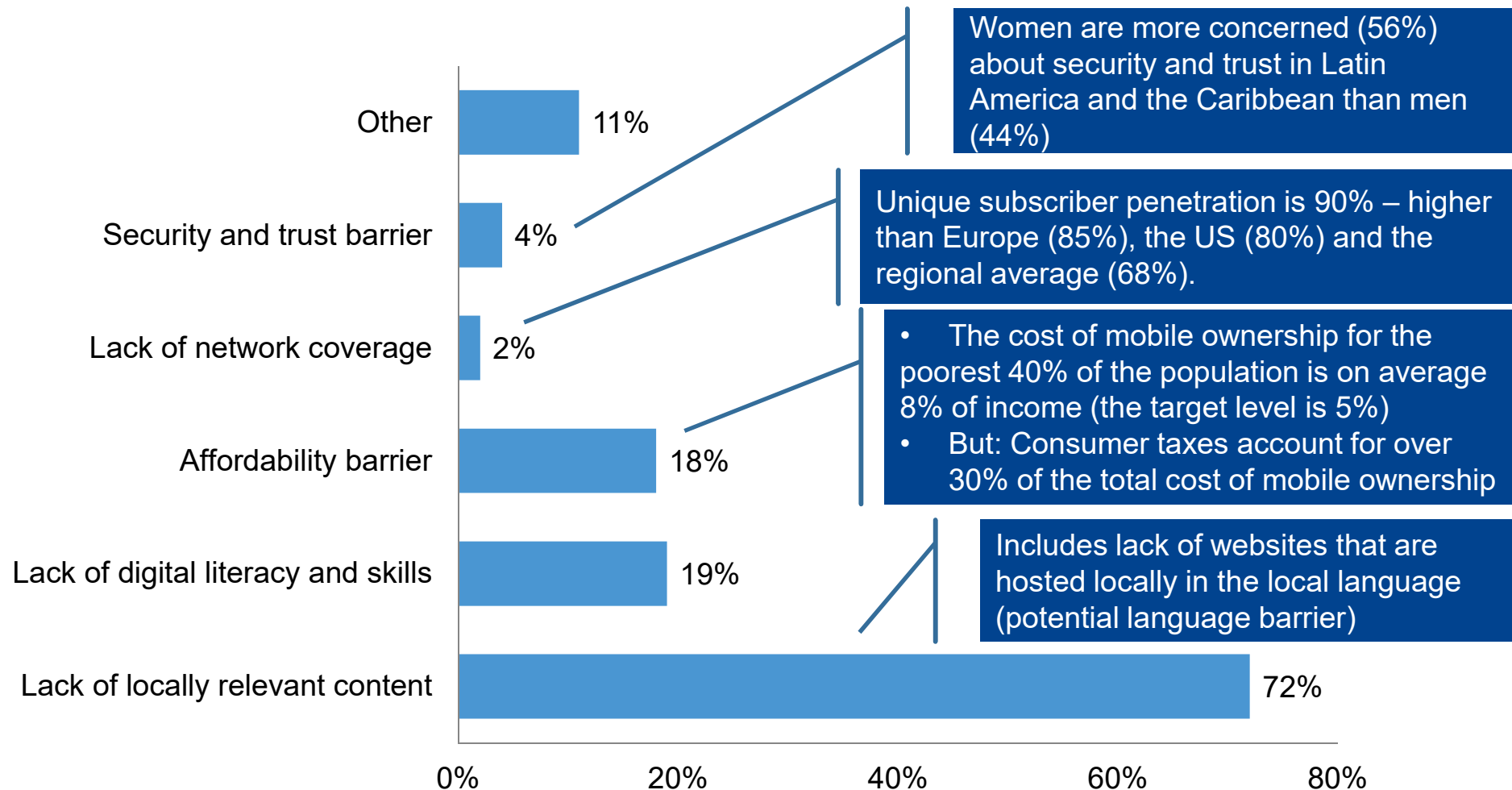


Source: Global Findex database, 2014, own calculations

- Account ownership rate is **49.5%** among men and **50.8%** among women (Global Findex, 2014)
- BUT: Gender gaps exist in the use of MDT for making financial transactions
- Rather moderate average level of the use of MDT.

Reasons for not using the mobile internet in Argentina

- About 27% of the population in Argentina do not use the mobile internet.



Source: GSMA (2016): Connected Society. Digital inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

Examples of NGO/private initiatives to improve women's digital inclusion in Argentina

- **Girls in Tech (GIT)** is a global initiative with a branch in Argentina to empower women in technology. The program aims at organizing various events, for example Hackathon, where girls can improve their IT skills by meeting and working together with hackers. They also offer start-up competitions for entrepreneurial ideas in technology, mentoring programs for girls and women, and many more.
- **Chicas en Tecnologia.** “Girls in Technology” program addresses the gender gap in technology-related disciplines such as mathematics and science.
 - aims at providing hands-on experience of technology and entrepreneurship mostly for teenage girls.
 - For instance, girls can learn how to develop useful apps to solve various social problems.
- ...

Further initiatives to promote digital inclusion in Argentina



● **Fostering a better infrastructure**

- *Plan Conectar Igualdad* (“Connecting Equality”) is an initiative that aims to enhance public education to reduce the digital, educational and social gaps compared to private education. It improves infrastructure to foster digitalization, provides netbooks and training of IT skills to students and teachers.
- “*Plan Federal de Internet*” aims at providing ICT equipment and training to expand ICT skills among citizens.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Secretaria de Comunicaciones (SECOM) provide free public access to ICT in knowledge access centers. They also have further e-inclusion strategies to foster the digital inclusion of women and youth living in poor and rural communities.

Further initiatives to promote digital inclusion in Argentina



● **Fostering a better infrastructure**

- “Plan Nacional de Conectividad Escolar”: it seeks to connect 2.000 rural schools to internet for pedagogical usage.
- Plan Nacional Integral de Educación Digital-PLANIED, implemented by Educ.ar
- Servicio Universal from the ENACOM (Ente Nacional de Comunicaciones) which includes: Programa Conectividad & Internet para Establecimientos Educativos.

● **Digitalization of public services**

- A recent project “*Modernization and Innovation for Better Public Services in Argentina*” (in cooperation with the IBRD) pursues improvements in digital services for citizens and expanded online services for small- and medium enterprises, among others.

Many thanks for your attention!