# Why aren't girls choosing Computer Science across Ireland?

As part of Google's commitment to closing equity gaps in Computer Science across Europe, we conducted research - in partnership with cultural insights agency Canvas8 - to find out what prevents girls across the educational pipeline from choosing Computer Science in Europe.

We identified six critical barriers, that have a direct, or indirect, impact on the participation of girls in Computer Science.

Dive deeper into the research with the full report here

#### 02



There aren't enough relatable role models, leaving girls to rely on stereotypes in the media to form perceptions of Computer Science.

#### Ireland had the highest percentages of girls and boys wanting:



Computer Science is often perceived as an

isolated subject - rather than a skill to develop.

of girls from Ireland feel they understand Computer Science - the lowest of all markets surveyed.<sup>1</sup>

### 'more people like me in the field' at

and 'more relatable role models on social media'.<sup>2</sup>

**26%** 

28%

03

01



The lack of support for Computer Science teachers directly impacts learner engagement with Computer Science.

#### 04



There's a disconnect between what students learn in school and what Computer Science looks like in their daily lives.

There is a desire for more creative elements when studying Computer Science, with girls from Ireland being most excited about:<sup>4</sup>





of students in Ireland feel having more learning resources available would increase their confidence in their ability to learn Computer Science/Informatics.<sup>3</sup>

05



Parents are disconnected from Computer Science learning.

06

## 2

Peer networks are limited.

Many parents don't understand Computer Science and the related opportunities for their children. Only

> iii 10%

of girls from Ireland say that doing Informatics/Computer Science would make their family proud.<sup>1</sup> 66

Extra curricular coding classes were fun, but then a lot of my friends decided they didn't want to do it. If I did it, I'd be by myself."

Girl aged 13-16 from Ireland

#### **References:**

1. Q34 - Which of the following do you think applies to Informatics/Computer Science? Please select all that apply. Base: Girls split by market

- 2. Q29 What would make you feel more confident about your ability to learn Computer Science or Informatics? Please select all that apply. Base: All interested in Computer Science split by market
- 3. Q29 What would make you feel more confident about your ability to learn Computer Science or Informatics? Please select all that apply. Base: Girls split by market
- 4. Q30 And what do you feel most excited about when studying this field? Please select all that apply. Base: All interested in Computer Science split by market