

EGU21-15331, updated on 27 Jun 2022
<https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu21-15331>
EGU General Assembly 2021
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Creating community and empowering underrepresented geospatial professionals at Women in Geospatial+

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Women in Geospatial+ is a professional network to promote gender-equality and diversity in the geospatial industry and academia. We are a vibrant and active community with more than 2,200 registered members from all over the world and over 14,000 followers on Twitter & LinkedIn. We have a range of activities all with the aim to inspire, unite and empower us as individuals but also us as a community.

This community brings together women and other people from underrepresented gender backgrounds in the geospatial field by providing a safe platform on Slack for open communication and exchange, which is especially crucial for networking during the COVID-19 era. We promote and foster the professional development of our members by sharing geospatial news and job vacancies as well as articles about diversity and tips about leadership and career development. We regularly run online career development workshops and panel discussions. Each week, we post a profile on LinkedIn to feature the work and achievements of women geospatial leaders. In 2020, our second international mentorship programme cohort grew to over 110 participants. We also launched a global speakers database which allows event organisers to search for and invite speakers from underrepresented gender backgrounds.

This presentation will highlight key activities of the Women in Geospatial+ network, tapping into some current facts and figures on diversity in the geospatial field. We will explain how to join the community and how you can contribute to its success and expansion. Let us change the status quo together by creating a strong network of Women in Geospatial+ leaders and changemakers.